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Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

TEMP Max 27 | Min 20 | Humidity 72% Generally cloudy sky with rain Sensex 52,727 | Nifty 15,699 | Gold 50,677 | Silver 59,864 | Dollar 78.28 | Euro 82.56 | GBP 96.20

How economical and sustainable are alternatives, vendors and traders tell BM, as ban on single use plastic looms

CITY WRAPPED IN PLASTIC

19 Single Use Plastic items banned from July 1

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On July 1, as many as 19 Single Use Plastic (SUP) items will be banned. Use, sale, manufacture, distribution, import or stocking of these products shall invite penalties thereafter.

Items that use single use plastic include earbuds, balloons, flags, candy sticks, ice cream sticks, thermocol, plates, cups, glasses, cutlery such as forks, spoons, knives, straw, trays, wrapping or packaging films for sweet boxes, invitation cards, cigarette packets, PVC banners less than 100 microns and stirrers to name a few.

However, fact is, most shops in Bengaluru are still using one or more of the aforementioned items. Stacks of glasses, earbuds packs, straws and candy sticks that use SUPs are sold and used everywhere in the city.

"We hardly have 5% of our plastic consumption covered by currently available alternatives.

– Vijay Kumar, president, Karnataka State Polymer Association

"We are using plastic bags as there is no alternative. The ban should be enforced on producers instead. We use polythene bags as they are delivered to us. When they get us paper bags, we will start using paper bags," said the owner of a medical shop near Jakkur.

To create an enabling support system, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is hand holding the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board by conducting meetings so that the local implementing agency can operationalise and effectively execute the ban. However, there is still a lack of awareness among shopkeepers in Bengaluru's markets.

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PEDESTRIANS, AIM FOR SKIES

61 new skywalks, but why are the existing ones unused?

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Drama, for lil ones

After a two-year long hiatus, AHA! International Theatre Festival for Children 2022 is back! With the pandemic plateauing, Ranga Shankara is taking the opportunity to bring our practitioners together to create a festival celebrating children and children's theatre. Five different productions will be put up, from Germany, Switzerland, South Korea and two from India, one of which is a Ranga Shankara production.
Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar; When: June 26 – 30, multiple timings; Tickets: Bookmyshow and box office (080 2649 3982)

02 Jazz and more!

Founded by songwriter/guitarist Chirag Todi, Heat Sink, a 6-piece band, is considered one of the top original English acts in the country. Their compositions blend genres with elements ranging from jazz to progressive rock while deriving influences from artists such as Larry Carlton, Hiatus Kaiyote, Tom Misch and John Mayer. Catch them live for a soulful evening of music.
Where: Windmills Craftworks, EPIP Zone, Whitefield; When: June 25, 9:30 pm onwards Contact: 08880233322, bookmyshow.com

03 Read on, folks

Bibliophiles, what are you reading these days? Is there a book or an author that has amazed you recently? Discuss it with like-minded people at this special club for bookworms and share the magic of some wordsmiths who not only influenced us but shaped our lives in some way.
Where: Lahe Lahe, Indiranagar When: June 25; Register: 9886294444

One giant leap for menstrual health!

State government's soon-to-be launched pilot programme will distribute menstrual cups to girls in government schools

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The Karnataka government's one-of-a-kind initiative of distributing menstrual cups to adolescent girls in government schools is all set to be launched soon, in what could be a major boost to menstrual health of citizens.

"Everything is ready, as soon as we launch the scheme, the distribution will start," said Dr Veena V, deputy director, Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK), Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK) and Shuchi scheme, "Since it is a one-of-a-kind programme, we want to create proper awareness."

When this reporter reached out to a few girls in government schools in Bengaluru, none of them had any idea what a menstrual cup is and how it is used. According to a recent National Family Health Survey 2019-21, only 0.3% of women in Karnataka in the age group 15-24 use menstrual cups during their periods.

Experts say menstrual cups are a great way to improve menstrual hygiene; it is also economically more feasible than pads

"We will start it in one taluka, with around 300 girls and expand based on their reactions – Dr Veena V, Deputy Director, RBSK, RKSK

Once rolled out, this flagship programme is touted to change that.

Since very few girls have proper knowledge about menstrual cups and their use, the programme will be first launched in two talukas as an experiment. "We will start it in one taluka, with at least 300 adolescent girls; then after six months, based on the girls' experience and reactions, we will expand it to entire districts at the least, if not state. We will train and educate the girls about the use of menstrual cups, and will be monitoring them as well," added Dr Veena.

The Department of Health & Family Welfare, Karnataka, had decided to launch the program in order to help minimise environmental degradation and to create awareness about menstrual hygiene amongst adolescent girls.

Menstrual cups are usually made out of silicone or latex rubber and are reusable. Unlike the disposable sanitary napkins, a single cup can even be used up to 3-5 years; however it requires sterilization by boiling water after every cycle.

Dr Vidya B, a consultant Obstetrician-Gynecologist in Bengaluru, explained that a menstrual cup makes up for an amazing alternative to sanitary pads. However, it can be hard for some.

"Menstrual cups ideally shouldn't be uncomfortable or painful to use. However, for the first-timers it can be a daunting task. Someone has to walk the girls through the whole process beforehand. Most of them have just started menstruating maybe and aren't even able to wrap their heads around that yet. If we do not sterilize the cups properly, it can lead to vaginal irritation or infection," she explained.

As per a report published in 2021, round 12.3 billion sanitary napkins, amounting to 113,000 tonnes of waste contribute to India's landfill every year. It has become important to find a green alternative to this.

Dr AN Yellappa Reddy, an environmentalist, explained: "It is great that the government is distributing pads or menstrual cups free of cost. But it should take responsibility of teaching the girls how to properly dispose them. It is biomedical waste and it can cause problems if not disposed properly."

The state government has the Shuchi Scheme under which the government distributes 10 pads to adolescent girls in government schools and PU.

Glitch in UUCMS portal makes students see red

Admissions to government degree colleges delayed due to system error; students say it is unfair

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Freshly graduated students seeking admission to government degree colleges have been left in the lurch because of technical anomalies in the Unified University and College Management System (UUCMS) portal that processes the admissions.

The UUCMS is a flagship project by the Department of Higher Education, Government of Karnataka. It integrates the functioning and the governance of all colleges and public universities in the state bringing all of them under one umbrella. The UUCMS digitalises the activities of higher education institutions (HEIs), from admissions to academics to examination to even awarding the degrees.

The All-India Democratic Students' Organisation (AIDSO) issued a statement questioning the delay in admission. They questioned the government as to why students from economically-strapped backgrounds are often made scapegoats due to glitches in UUCMS portal.

Ajay Kamath, state secretary, AIDSO Karnataka chapter, said, "Last year, due to the implementation of UUCMS, exams were delayed by one month and students faced the brunt. Karnataka government -- in a hurry to implement NEP-2020 -- implemented UUCMS to bring all the degree government colleges under their control. Since the second PU results were announced, all the private colleges have initiated admission process, but the technical glitch in the UUCMS has delayed admissions."

PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

"Poor meritorious students who cannot afford private college fees, waiting for government college admissions are left high and dry. Government is pushing students towards privatisation, which is their long-time agenda," said Sithara HM from AIDSO.

The members also stated that covid and the lockdown had an economic effect on common people. Post covid, dependency over government institutions for education has greatly increased. The government should start admission process in a different way added Kamath.

Sithara added that the news was causing great anxiety to the many students. "Until now, students could go to colleges and get admission directly, but now, the process is different."

BBMP goes after KPTCL for 'damaging' clean-up

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Several Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) officials have filed a complaint against the workers of Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited for damaging a pathway and cycle lane that the BBMP had recently laid on Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan Road in Yelahanka New Town last Tuesday.

Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) of Yelahanka New Town's subdivision, Sachin HP, in his complaint to the police, stated that the BBMP had recently constructed a pathway and a bicycle lane on Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan Road for the use of residents nearby and commuters.

On Tuesday around 7.30 pm, a group of KPTCL workers had come to prune the trees that were touching the high-tension lines. Workers not only left the cut branches and damaged the tree plantations done by BBMP on the walking path and the cycle lane, but also damaged the grills and the structure they had put up to protect the tree plantation.

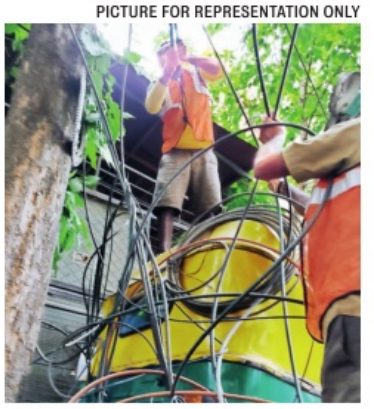
"Initially, we did not know it was the KPTCL people who had come and done the pruning. But since the damage was done all along the stretch, we proceeded with a police complaint," said Mohan, a BBMP official.

Based on a complaint from AEE Sachin, the Yelahanka New Town police registered an FIR against workers of KPTCL under sections of Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act and under IPC Section 427 -- mischief causing damage for an amount of fifty rupees.

An investigating officer told BM that KPTCL workers were doing their job of pruning the trees, and this is how they did it every time when the trees grow and begin to touch the high-tension lines.

"Since the line is KPTCL's, the land underneath the line is also technically theirs, where the BBMP had developed a path and cycle lane. They have to mutually come to a compromise and both parties should solve the dispute amicably," said a senior police officer.

PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY



BBMP complained that the grills enclosing tree plantations were also damaged

Bikers wade through sun & sand on flyovers

Two-wheelers skid on sandy stretches that pose danger to riders' life & limb

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KAUSHIK JN

Riders say these flyovers are in dire need of cleaning

It is a story almost as old as time that Bengaluru's flyovers are dangerous, especially for bikers. After incidents of falls from the flyovers, now, there are reports of bikes skidding due to the accumulation of sand on the flyover, and the riders suffering heavy injuries.

Recently, a 47-year-old biker riding from HSR layout to go to Iblur met with an accident at Agara flyover on Wednesday after his bike skidded due to sand on the stretch.

As a result, the tendon above his knee was torn, fingers damaged and he had to undergo surgery. The doctors have advised him to wear braces for his leg for at least a month.

This problem is not new, say bikers and commuters who use the flyover regularly. Chidambaram Subramanian, a techie said, "The biker was riding at a slow speed. However, another driver applied his brakes which forced the victim to apply brakes suddenly too. As there was sand accumulated, the biker could not keep his balance; he fell and was injured."

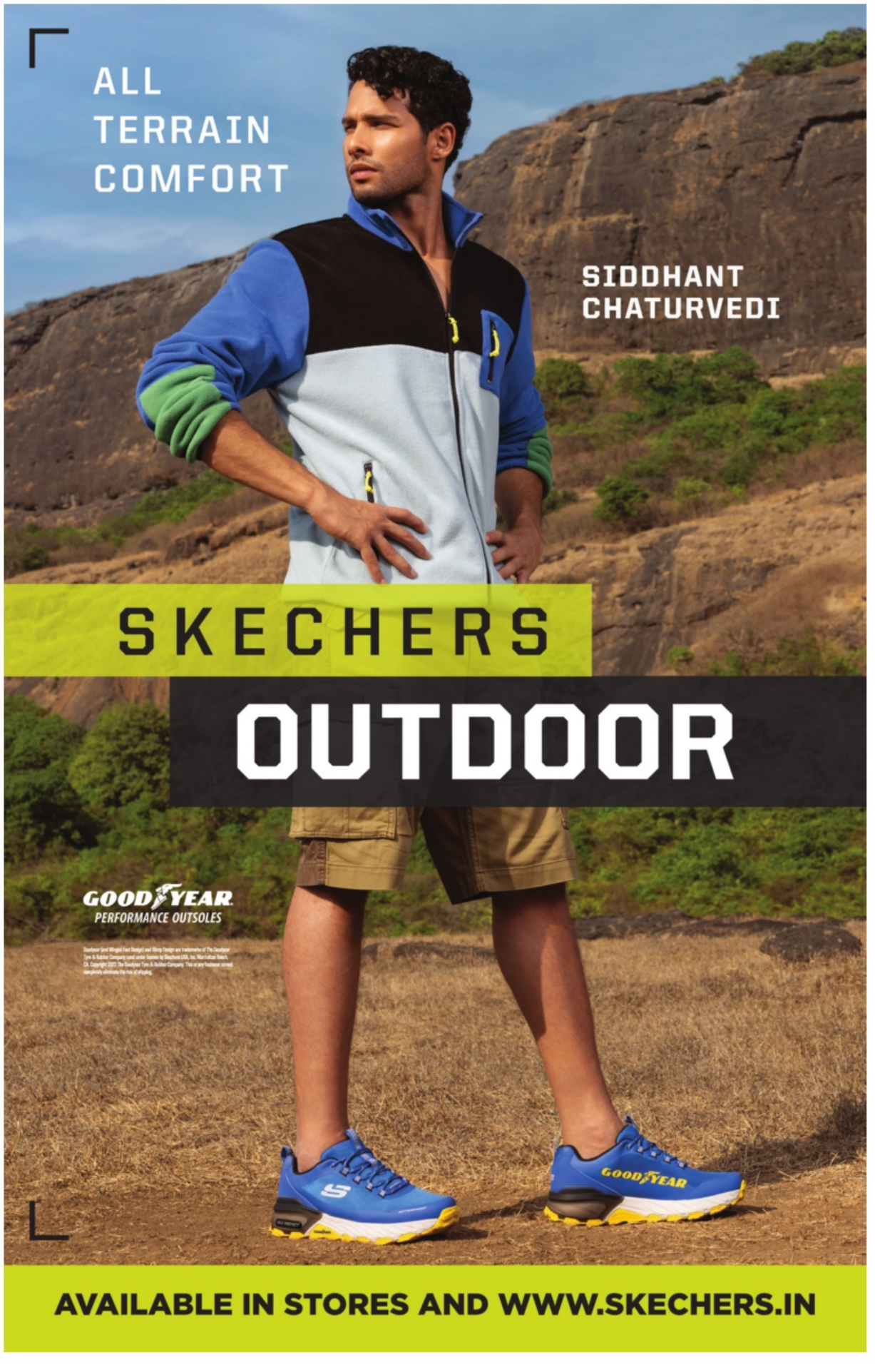
Subramanian added that it was not just the sand accumulation but even the expansion joints gaps that are a nightmare to motorists. "On many stretches on Outer Ring Road, one can see that the left part of the road (about one to two feet) is not usable because of sand and mud," he said.

Another techie and a regular biker, Ajit S, also said due to lack of maintenance, the flyovers become death traps for motorists. "While the heavy vehicles may not much of a problem, the bikers are the worst affected. We see tractors being parked on roads where the personnel clear the road. However, this exercise is often done only during road asphalting while the regular cleaning is not done," he said.

However, the on-ground personnel say that sweeping the flyover is a difficult task due to heavy traffic. "Bengaluru's traffic has reached pre-Covid levels. It is very difficult to clean the flyovers as traffic is round the clock. There can be traffic jams if barricades are put up on the roads for cleaning. Even for the personnel cleaning the flyovers or roads, it is very risky as they are always afraid of being hit by other vehicles," said a BBMP official.

Devendra R, a businessman, said, "Most of the flyovers are four-lane flyovers. So, one needs to be very careful while driving. If a heavy vehicle is travelling on the flyover, then bikers are pushed to the edge. Due to poor maintenance like not clearing the sand, the flyovers become death traps."

Many complain that narrow flyovers are risky. "The BDA flyover is quite narrow. As the gradient is too steep, it is very difficult for the vehicles to pick up speed. Hence, many heavy vehicles move very slowly and the edges are quite uneven and with retaining walls being weak, motorists need to be very careful," said Anita R, a college student.



Walkers stumped on Nrupathunga Road

No nod yet to remove stumps of trees that fell a year ago

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Two huge trees came crashing down on Nrupathunga Road more than a year ago due to heavy rain.

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Forest Department promptly made arrangements to clear fallen tree branches to facilitate smooth movement of vehicular traffic in the area, but completely forgot to remove the two huge tree stumps on the footpath near the Reserve Bank of India.

With the BBMP Forest Department turning a blind eye to the stumps for more than a year, they have not only become an eye sore but also a hindrance to pedestrians.

"I do not know why the BBMP Forest Department failed to remove the stumps and plant a few saplings at the same spot to promote greenery," said Shivanna S, a two-wheeler rider.

One of the stumps is especially causing an inconvenience to pedestrians.

"I want the authorities to remove the stumps of fallen trees which are of no use either to the environment or to pedestrians," said Ramakrishna N, a pedestrian.

Coming down heavily on the BBMP Forest Department for not removing the stumps and planting saplings, Sai Datta, a social activist, opined that the civic body has no interest in ensuring greenery in the city.

"There is no shortage for saplings at the nurseries maintained by the BBMP Forest Department. If they do not take measures to remove the tree stumps and plant saplings, it will be better to close it down," said Datta.

Pedestrians have to make way across and around the tree stump on Nrupathunga Road

> **We cannot remove the stumps during the day as it would affect the traffic on the road. I am yet to write a letter seeking permission from the traffic police**
>
> –Shivaramu, BBMP

"It will be good if the BBMP Forest Department authorities plant Rudraksha and Kadamba saplings on the same spot after removing the fallen tree stumps," said Dr A N Yellappa Reddy, an environmentalist.

However, BBMP Deputy Range Forest Officer Shivaramu has said that he needs permission from the RBI authorities and traffic police to remove the remaining stumps from the footpath.

"One of the tree stumps is adjacent to the RBI compound wall. We have to take RBI's permission to remove that tree stump and also take precautions to avoid damage to the compound wall," he said.

He said the traffic police are yet to give a green signal.

"We cannot remove the tree stumps during the day as it would affect the traffic on Nrupathunga Road. I am yet to write a letter seeking permission from the traffic police to remove the stumps," he added.

Fixing Mahadevapura's footpaths, one step at a time

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Broken, garbage-ridden footpaths that trouble pedestrians are not an uncommon sight in the city. However, BBMP officials in the Mahadevapura zone have come up with an initiative to work on such footpaths in the area and improve their quality.

Over 5 km of the Doddanekundi Main Road was fixed on a trial basis and a wheelchair-test was done consequently. The stretch was initially in a horrendous state with waste and debris scattered all over it. The place was unusable by pedestrians and most of them were using the main road to walk.

A few months ago, construction of footpaths in the area commenced with the laying down of cement blocks. After the 5.3 km stretch was completed on both sides, BBMP officials along with the Mahadevpura Task Force and The Ugly Indian volunteer group carried out a trial run with a wheelchair.

A wheelchair test was also done on the stretch of Doddanekundi Main Road

Clement C Jayakumar, Secretary of the MTF, said, "We were debating in terms of how we measure the footpath and how to check if the footpath is of good quality, even for differently-abled people. Most of the time, once the footpath is made, it gets in a bad state in no time. The slabs are not fixed properly and start to wobble. We wanted to ensure that it supports people's walkability for long. As The Ugly Indian group were our knowledge partners, they stated that the footpath should be designed in a way where even wheelchairs can move easily. Hence, the BBMP worked on the same to provide a quality footpath."

The trial run was carried out with a person using a wheelchair, and the movement was smooth for the individual.

Jayakumar added, "Earlier, 90% of the footpath was occupied with debris, garbage, and even tree branches. The branches were trimmed in order to make it easier for walkers."

The footpath is now beneficial for a number of citizens, as people from the Doddanekundi village walk till Outer Ring Road and Old Airport Road, beyond which they avail public transport to reach their respective locations.

BBMP plans to make more such footpaths in the Mahadevpura Constituency under their comprehensive development plan.

whatsapp MIRROR 9591233247

Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Noisy business

Whitefield

After modified construction of SWD by BBMP near Nexus Mall, Whitefield Main road, water logging has almost stopped. However, loud banging sounds are heard when empty trucks pass over the SWD. From Nexus Mall to Varthur Kodi, the road has lots of ups and downs. Hoskote Road needs immediate attention.

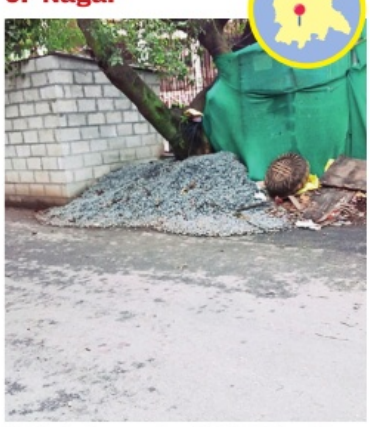
Turn the corner

Nandini Layout

An abandoned car has been lying around in Nandini layout, BHEL Officers Society, in the corner of Shiva Temple and Shaktinilaya. School children walk here and an accident is sure to happen.

Clutter on road

JP Nagar



Half of the road at 26th Main, JP Nagar 1st phase is occupied by construction material and garbage with no place to move.

Citizens, activists pick holes in BBMP ward delimitation

Residents of some areas say there was lack of consultation, others want more wards

KAUSHIK JN

Civic work is a perpetual affair in the city, like this road-widening work going on in Jayanagar

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The draft notification issued by the State Urban Development Department on the delimitation of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) wards has drawn mixed reactions from residents' welfare associations and citizen activists. While some blame the committee on delimitation for not taking them into confidence, others wanted more wards for a city like Bengaluru to have better governance.

Former minister and KPCC Working President Ramalinga Reddy said the draft prepared by the committee led by BJP MLA S Raghu would help the ruling party. "None of the revenue inspectors and BBMP officials were consulted by the committee while preparing the report on delimitation of wards in BTM Layout. The draft was prepared at the BJP office and the BBMP Commissioner religiously signed it," said Reddy.

Expressing concern over merging half of Kasturinagar with Lal Bahadur Nagar (Ward 118) and CV Raman Nagar (Ward 117), Kasturinagar Residents' Welfare Association president Venugopal Rai said that Kasturinagar was with Benniganahalli Ward before the delimitation.

"Kasturinagar is divided into two parts and merged with two wards. It will be inconvenient for the residents to get their grievances addressed. At present, the BBMP ward office exists at Kasturinagar. We are not happy with division of our area and merging them with two wards," said Rai.

Bharathinagar Residents' Forum president NS Ravi said residents of Cox Town do not want their area to be merged with New Byappanahalli (Ward 117). Cox Town was within Sarvagna Nagar ward. "We would suggest to the Urban Development Department to consider making our area a separate ward," said Ravi. Vinod Jacob, General Manager, Namma Bengaluru Foundation, said the wards should strictly be as per geographical contiguity, compactness of the houses, and equal distribution of population, physical features, and existing boundaries of administrative units.

> **"The 15-day consultation period will allow us to study the ward boundaries and submit our opinions. The delimitation committee must put all information online and allow public input to be given via email as well**

"The population of each ward should be the same throughout the Municipal Corporation with a variation of up to 10 per cent above or below the average population. Furthermore, delimitation should also be considered on the basic amenities a Ward should have, such as government schools, public health centres, parks, playgrounds, libraries, water, power, accessible roads, bus stations, and police stations," said Jacob.

Let us discuss

Srinivas Alavilli, Head Civic Participation Janaagraha, said that more wards were welcome as current ones were too big, especially in outer areas. "Bengaluru needs a lot more wards to bring governance closer to people and to make ward committees more meaningful. The 15-day consultation period will allow us to study the ward boundaries and submit our opinions. The delimitation committee must put all information online and allow public input to be given via email as well," said Alavilli.

Describing the delimitation process as unscientific, Jagadeesh Reddy of Varthur Rising said some parts of Varthur and Sorahunase village were added with Hagadur ward. Varthur itself is a Ward, he stated.

On Friday, BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath told the media that the delimitation was done based on the 2011 population of Bengaluru. "The population is more in peripheral areas than core areas of the city," he said.

While the number of wards has been increased in most of the Assembly Constituencies, the numbers of wards have come down in Jayanagar, Chamarajpet, and Shivajinagar Assembly constituencies where it has come down to 6 from 7. There is no change in the number of wards in the Anekal Assembly Constituency.

AND THE NEW WARDS ARE...

Someshwara (3), Kogilu (6), Amrutahallii (9), Kempapura (10), Kammagondanahalli (16), Defence Colony (19), Nelagadernahalli (23), Handrahalli (28), Vidyamanyanagar (29), Doddagollarahatti (31), Bande Mutt (34), Thalaghattapura (35), Kanneshwara Rama (36), Veeramadakari (37), Chanakya (39), Chatrapati Shivaji (40), Ranadheera Kanteerava (43), Veera Sindhura Lakshamana (44), Vijayanagara Krishnadevaraya (45), Sir M Vishweshwaraiah (46), Nalvadi

Krishnaraja Wadeyar Park (47), Chola Nagara (69), Modi Garden (77) Babusab Palya (82), Kalkere (83), Tambu Chetty Palya (87), Belathur (105), AECS Layout (109), Lal Bahadur Nagar (118), New Bayappanahalli (119), Old Thippasandra (121), Veerabhadranagar (163), Avalahalli (164), Devraj Urs Nagar (169), Azad Nagar (170), Ashoka Pillar (175), Someshwara Nagar (176), NS Palya (193), Tilak Nagar (195) , Umamaheshwari (201), Vikram Nagar (205), Kamakya Nagar (207), Deen Dayalu (208), Srinivas Nagar (212), Kanakanagara (220), RBI Layout (222), Chunchaghatta (223), Naganathapura (228), Ibluru (229), Devarachikkanahalli (236), Vinayakanagar (240), Sarakki Lake (241), and Kudlu (243).

RAJMOHAN SUDHAKAR

EVER CHANGING MOODS

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Supine media frenzy

In a recent interview, supine was the expression the Labour Party's Jeremy Corbyn used to describe the 'establishment media' in the United Kingdom. Corbyn was seen specifically pointing to The Guardian, a widely perceived champion of progressive and independent journalism, as many even in India would regard the 200-year-old outlet.

No doubt the Guardian's has been a seminal and visionary presence, especially online in exploring the interactive nature of the digital sphere.

That said, the intriguing question is whether the Guardian, and other similar media outlets elsewhere and in India, are representative of the liberal press or just masquerading as left of centre to garner subscriptions of those on the political left at the behest of neoliberal funders — for instance running an ad of an absolute monarchy while you wax eloquent on climate justice and women is absurd. The Indian media landscape is no different, but even more appalling.

The 'supine' comment by the internationalist labour leader is timely and contextual and is to be read alongside the continuing incarceration of one of the greatest journalists — WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange detained on questionable grounds in the UK.

A court in the UK recently ruled in favour of Assange's extradition to the United States. He is wanted in the US on charges of espionage and such. A few days ago, the UK's home secretary Priti Patel signed the order to handover the 50-year-old whistleblower to the US. Provision of legal appeal remains for Assange.

The critical aspect here is understanding the gradually metamorphosing stance of the so-called 'liberal'/establishment media including the Guardian's. Well, primarily because the Guardian was one of the few media outlets that published and benefitted from WikiLeaks' damning material evidencing 'war crimes' of the United States in Afghanistan and Iraq — if taken cognisance by an international court of justice the excesses could very well may have been treated as US' human rights violations in sovereign nations.

The irony is the establishment media outlets are now seen religiously protesting 'Russian aggression' assuming a pro US stance. A decade ago these outlets were pro WikiLeaks; now only faint sighs leave grand editorials at the violation of Assange and press freedom as all hands are in favour of American imperialism hiding behind the facade of fading global democracy.

As we speak the space and time given to someone like Julian Assange in the establishment media are thinning. This is bad for journalism.

The aforementioned is no doubt the biggest credibility fiasco for the

press in the recent times, arising from its own failure to protect and rally support for a postmodern figurehead of journalism and a tech wizard who used technology — the greatest innovation of our time — to expose the transgressions of a powerful regime that used tech to unleash violence upon mankind, and still isn't held accountable, if we are to analyse in detail what Assange revealed to the world about a decade ago.

This is also the definitive case of the establishment media's neoliberal posturing gradually coming into view as they pander to power centres while what is left of truly independent journalism — often undertaken by poor fellow journalists, doing all the legwork despite oftentimes famished of resources — is miserably failing to confront an existential crisis in the global south.

The funny thing, perhaps equally absurd, is the establishment media still wanting to be perceived as liberal and 'woke' while turning a blind eye to the dehumanising of Assange for over a decade in its own turf. Moral grandstanding is currency to sway the unsuspecting reader so to speak.

Besides the vacuum left by the 'neoliberal-liberal' media that operate outlets such as The Guardian, what is increasingly becoming clear is the dissonance of narratives at times in the same media outlet where one positions as the guardian of human rights and virtues while the other turns out to be clickbait; this stark contrast or double standard in order to profiteer is not sustainable for the future of journalism.

That no mainstream outlet is able to capitalise on the liberal media vacuum and mobilise a strong and economically independent media discourse is as bewildering as it is alarming, especially on the backdrop of the ever declining press freedom index of India. It becomes all the more critical for a country like ours at the cusp of economic revival to reclaim media freedom as global pioneers of independent media gradually succumb to neoliberal pressure.

Look at how the political crisis in Maharashtra is being reported. After instances of toppling, and attempts at toppling, democratically elected state governments, in Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh, efforts are on to dethrone the tripartite coalition in Maharashtra. Scathing critique in the mainstream press about the moral bankruptcy of our politicos is rare; instead constant praise of malice is weakening a vulnerable and cash-strapped opposition.

Step 1: Clear route for Jalahalli underpass

Shops being cleared out to make way for delayed Jalahalli Cross underpass

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The much-delayed Jalahalli Cross underpass has got a lease of life with BBMP personnel and police clearing out the shop vendors located on the sides of the proposed grade separator.

In the first phase, around 50 shop owners are to be evicted. The construction of the underpass at Jalahalli cross has been delayed for want of land. The grade separator which is to come up next to Jalahalli Metro station on Tumakuru road is a much-needed breather from the congestion.

The junction at Tumakuru-Bengaluru city and Peenya Industrial estate-SM road (leading to Jalahalli east and Kempegowda International Airport road) is chock-a-block with traffic during peak hours.

Though a four-lane highway (connecting Goraguntepalya with the Nelamangala access controlled road) was constructed years ago, the traffic below the flyover at the Jalahalli cross junction continues to bother the motorists.

According to BBMP, the detailed project report (DPR) for the project was prepared in 2018, and the project cost, estimated to be Rs 57.22 crore, was entrusted to a private player. As per the original plan, the project was to be completed by May 31, 2023, but there are still no signs of it starting. Sources said that when the project was about to take off the government led by HD Kumaraswamy fell, leading to a new government. This was followed by the Covid outbreak. A total of 10,432 square metres of land is required for the project, and the BBMP has already issued notices to 49 property owners for acquiring the required land.

The underpass is to come up next to Jalahalli Metro station

As per the plan, the underpass will be 4.5 metres high, providing a ramp of 165 metres towards Ayyappa Temple, and 65 metres towards Peenya Second Stage.

Speaking to Bangalore Mirror, an official from BBMP said, "The road has always been busy as there

The underpass will allow commuters from all directions to be able to avoid the traffic signal

are many vehicles commuting. Since there are more commuters between Peenya Industrial area and Gangamma Circle, even the vehicles towards Tumakuru road will have to halt at junctions, which makes traffic worse. This underpass will allow commuters from all directions to avoid the signal."

Locals recalled the transformation of Jalahalli Cross from a quaint place to its current state.

"There used to be a huge circle at this junction in the early 2000s. However, as traffic increased, the circle was removed. The traffic pile-up at this junction used to be so bad – up to 1 km on all sides - and the congestion would last till late at night. One would require at least 15 to 20 minutes for crossing this junction alone. However, after the road was widened as a part of the access-controlled Nelamangala highway, the traffic jam reduced, but not completely," a local said.

With the partial closure of Nelamangala flyover, traffic has increased at Jalahalli cross.

Buses to be allowed on Nelamangala flyover?

Currently, heavy vehicles are barred from using the Nelamangala flyover, and it is shut for all vehicles at midnight. But, sources say that buses may be allowed to ply on the flyover now. The NHAI is yet to take a call on it. There are also reports that all heavy vehicles except multi-axle vehicles may be allowed on the flyover. Due to partial closure of the Nelamangala highway, traffic on the road below has increased. Congestion can be witnessed at 8th Mile, T Dasarahalli, Jalahalli Cross, Peenya Police station, and Peenya SRS junctions.

'Restore communal harmony'

A group of 75 people including eminent personalities have written an open letter to Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, expressing concern about "recent developments" that threaten to destroy peace and diversity in Karnataka.

They requested Bommai to take proactive steps to ensure that a clear message is sent to those instigating or indulging in violence and creating fear and that such unlawful behaviour will not be tolerated and will be punished. The group, calling themselves 'concerned citizens', pressed for restoring the State to a

75 personalities pen open letter to CM expressing concern over recent developments

'Sarva janangada shantiya thota' (a garden of peace for diverse communities), as mentioned in 'Naada Geethe' (state anthem) penned by Kuvempu. They said the "current spate of divisive actions aimed at alienating communities and denying them their fundamental rights" will not only hamper development but also hurt our state's reputation, hinder progress and innovation, erode the confidence of entrepreneurs and investors, heighten insecurity, suspicion, fear and resentment among citizens.

The restoration of communal harmony is an important and urgent task, they said, expressing trust that the government headed by Bommai will not wish to go down in history as the one that precipitated a "steep downturn" in the reputation and fortunes of our state through inaction. The signatories include retired civil servants, writers, artists and academics like Yellappa Reddy, Indian Forest Service (retd), Ravivarma Kumar (former Advocate General, Karnataka), Chiranjiv Singh, IAS (retd), Ajai Kumar Singh IPS (retd), Raghunandan IAS (retd), Shashi Deshpande (writer), Vaidehi (writer), Girish Kasaravalli (film maker) and Ramchandra Guha (historian).

The group has claimed that they have been trying to secure an appointment with the CM and wished to present this letter to him in person, but since they have not succeeded in their efforts, they have decided to issue it as an open letter.

They stated that they are deeply disturbed by recent developments in the state that threaten to destroy the peace, diversity and pluralism for which "Kannada Naadu" has long been known for. **PTI**

Too taxing to keep spirits high? AlcoBev sector's plea

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The International Spirits & Wines Association of India (ISWAI), the apex body of the premium AlcoBev sector, has made recommendations to the State Government to consider rationalisation of additional excise duty on premium products.

According to ISWAI, the current taxation structure in the state has resulted in Indian-Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) consumption being skewed towards the cheap segment due to the significant MRP differences between cheap and premium AlcoBev products. Cheaper brands are way too cheap, and premium brands are far costlier compared to other states. While Karnataka is one of the largest AlcoBev consuming states in India, the overall excise revenue generation is not in line with the consumption. Even states which have lower consumption are generating comparatively higher revenues.

Nita Kapoor, CEO of ISWAI, said, "Karnataka is an economic powerhouse and is the model state for premiumisation because of its rapid urbanisation, rising disposable incomes, and a cosmopolitan, diverse, young, educated, working population. Despite these favourable conditions, premium alcohol products have seen a consistent decline in consumption over the last 4-5 years. This is primarily because Karnataka has the highest tax rates. ISWAI has been in constant discussion with the excise team and has shared various options that can lead to improving

ISWAI requests State Govt to consider rationalisation of excise duty on premium products

the premium segment share in the industry." It would also improve the state excise revenue collection from this segment, Kapoor said.

ISWAI members said that states such as Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Telangana, Delhi, and West Bengal that encouraged premiumisation have seen an increase in revenue. However, the Karnataka premium segment is only around 6.8% of the industry, and is declining year-on-year. The figures for other states are at least 10%, with Telangana and Odisha constituting as high as 54% and 22%. Suresh Menon, Secretary-General of ISWAI, said, "The MRP variations on premium products between Karnataka and other states are significant. Due to this, consumers have to either pay an exorbitant price for their brands or look for sources outside Karnataka."

Need to track that bus now

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After Namma Metro started a real-time tracking service with Google to help commuters track the next Metro train real-time, BMTC is planning to establish similar services for bus tracking.

Rajesh S, BMTC Chief Traffic Manager, said, "We are currently working on real-time tracking services for BMTC. It is in progress and might take up to 3-4 months. It will be a separate app, exclusive for BMTC buses, that would help the commuters track buses and identify bus routes."

Currently, there are apps that help the commuters track and identify BMTC buses and bus routes. However, these apps are not centralised and usually show suggestive data. Commuters suggest that for convenience, there should be a centralised app to track and identify BMTC buses.

Vinaya K, a resident of JP Nagar, said that she had a bad experience with the BMTC services as there is no proper tracking system in place. "When I first came to the city, I realised cabs and autos are very expensive here and since the Metro connectivity is also very limited, I decided to travel by BMTC buses. As many of the boards in buses are in Kannada, I have to ask people which number bus goes where."

Vinaya said that though BMTC bus fare is affordable, she is reluctant to travel by it as it is inconvenient. "I wish there was an efficient way to track and identify these buses. It would save a lot of money otherwise spend on autos," she added.

Some Bengalureans believe that there wasn't really a dire need for Metro tracking services, but it is crucial for the BMTC buses, they say.

Prashant Kumar, an IT professional, said, "Metro trains are pretty frequent, there's a train every 5-10 minutes. What do we do with the Namma Metro timings? We can catch a train on arriving at the Metro station easily. What we really need is a real-time tracking service for the BMTC buses which are much harder to catch."

Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation (BMRCL) signed a memorandum of understanding with Google back in May this year to facilitate the tracking system. The new system would now al-

Passengers want real-time tracking app for BMTC buses, just like Namma Metro

low the commuters to track the location of the metro trains by Google Maps. BMRCL will provide all the data about the train movements to google.

Divya Hosur, general manager, IT and social-environmental Management, BMRCL, said, "BMRCL has tied up with Google and the data is updated every week. This helps the commuters to see on maps when the next train is scheduled. We are also working on a separate real-time tracking system that will be available on our website."

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Saving on fuel costs

THERE ARE WAYS IN WHICH YOU CAN CUT DOWN FUEL COSTS ON YOUR DRIVE

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With high fuel prices, you would naturally think twice before going on a long drive. However, there are some simple steps through which you can save on fuel costs. According to experts, with some effort and care, car owners can save 15 per cent of their fuel bills. Inflate the tyres to the recommended pressure, service the car as per the manufacturer's recommendation, use technology to avoid traffic, service your car regularly and drive sensibly. These are some of the easiest ways to bring down your fuel cost.

PHOTOS: © GETTY IMAGES

CHECK THE TYRES

Check tyre pressure once every month. In fact, if the tyres are old, check them every 20 days. Underinflated tyres end up putting higher pressure on the engine, which will consume more fuel. Tyres need to be inflated to the right pressure. Many fuel pumps offer this facility free of cost. So, whenever you fill in fuel, it's best to get your tyres checked. Fuel costs could rise by 8 per cent if tyres are not adequately inflated.

REAL-TIME UPDATES

Waiting at signals for long and driving through congested routes reduce speed and burn more fuel. Experts have a remedy for this. Use a less congested route to reach your workplace or home. Many a time, we can choose between three or four alternative routes to get to the workplace or to get back home. Use the route which is relatively free and has the least traffic. Smartphones have applications which give you real-time traffic movement. You can use Google maps, which give you real-time traffic update, along with the speed at which traffic is flowing. Avoid the heavy traffic route, which saves you both fuel as well as time. This will eventually save you precious time as well as money.

TIMELY SERVICE

Clean oil and air filter go a long way in increasing mileage. When there is dust on air filter, it restricts the flow of air into the engine which affects performance. When the engine air filter clogs with dirt and dust, it makes the car's engine work harder thereby reducing fuel efficiency. Clean oil also contributes to better mileage. Oil should be changed every 5,000 kms in case of a petrol car and 2,500 kms in case of a diesel car. You could save five to seven per cent on your fuel costs if you change oil and clean the filter regularly.

DRIVING HABITS

The way you drive plays a crucial role in saving fuel. You can drive the same distance in the same time using much lower fuel. Accelerate slowly and change gears as you speed up. Do not accelerate fast, as it needs more power and you will end up consuming more fuel. Another thing you need to adjust is the gears. Change gears, as you increase speed. Shift to the highest gear as soon as you touch 50 km/hour. Driving in a lower gear wastes fuel. Similarly, if you drive in a higher gear on hills and corners, it will put extra pressure on the engine, thereby burning fuel. Sudden acceleration and braking tend to up fuel cost. If the route is regular and you know a signal ahead, it makes sense to drive slowly rather than accelerating and braking at the signal. Do not accelerate if you see a signal ahead of you, as you will burn unnecessary fuel and get lower mileage. Rather drive down slowly till the signal. Finally, as a thumb rule if you need to wait at the signal for more than 60 seconds, switch off the engine, to save on fuel.

IS YOUR CAR RAIN-READY?

WITH THE ONSET OF MONSOON, HERE'S A SIMPLE CHECKLIST TO MAKE SURE YOU DRIVE SAFE IN THE RAINS

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Respedit.Bangalore
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The month of June sees the onset of monsoon in the city and for the next few weeks waterlogged roads, treacherous potholes and cars stalled right in the middle of the road with their blinkers on will be a common sight. Though rains make us happy and most of us love to drive in the rains, it has its own set of encounters and surely, the last thing you want is your car breaking down while others zip by and spray your windshield dirty. So here are some tips to get your car in tiptop shape before hitting the roads during monsoon.

TYRES

The importance of having good tyres cannot be stressed on enough as most accidents are a result of worn-out tyres as they tend to skid on wet or muddy stretches - tyres that work well in dry conditions may not work on wet roads. Make sure the treads of the tyres are at least 3-4 mm deep. If the tyres are worn out, then replace them with new ones and get the balance and alignment of the wheels checked before the monsoon and also check inflation and tyre pressure, as the tyres tend to lose pressure during the rainy season.

BRAKES

These are the most crucial parts of a car. If your car makes any kind of noise clean the brake pads and replace them if need be and get brake fluid levels checked, and brake lines monitored for proper lubrication, so they don't snap, due to the friction. Ensure that you have adequate stopping power, without skidding and replace the brake fluids and make sure they don't leak. The brake drums need to be checked too for wear and tear. Test your brakes before driving on a rainy day.

ENSURE YOUR WIPERS ARE WORKING

Most of the times the wipers are among the least used devices in a car, and any fault with an unused device is likely to go unnoticed, until it starts pouring, so replace the wiper pads to ensure a clean windshield before the start of the monsoon and you can also install a rear wiper for a better rear view.

BODY CARE

Water causes the metal to rust so before the onset of monsoon, get your car a fresh coat of anti-rust paint applied on the under-chassis. Also, get a wax coating done to the car body just before the monsoon and make sure all the scratches on your car are either painted or at least polished with wax. You can also get the anti-rust treatment done on the underbody of your automobile.

LIGHTS SHOULD BE IN WORKING CONDITION

Rains bring a blanket of fog along with them and therefore before you set off, make sure the headlamps, the tail lamps and the blinkers are working properly and ensure they are clean and free from any smudges. Keep your pilot lamp switched on at all times while driving in the rain.

SAFETY TIPS

Lower your window panes while driving through waterlogged areas. Install a mobile battery charger in your car and ensure your FM radio is in working condition to tune in to weather announcements. Create ICE (In Case of Emergency) in the contact list of your cell phone to enable any rescuer to inform your nearest ones at the earliest. A well-equipped first-aid kit with a bandage, pain relief spray, antiseptic cream, anti-allergic, mosquito repellent cream or spray is a must. Car drivers, who have diabetes, BP, asthma or any other illness, should take their prescription drugs.

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Govt allocates ₹130 crore for flyover at Sarakki Jn

Proposed flyover to be built at ORR-Kanakapura Road Junction is expected decongest traffic in the area

The realty sector in and around Kanakapura Road is set to get a big boost as the State Government permits a major infrastructure project. The State Government has allocated Rs 130 crore under the Amrut Nagarothana Scheme for construction of a 1.2-kilometre-long flyover at Sarakki Junction.

The proposed flyover will be constructed at the Outer Ring Road-Kanakapura Road junction near Sarakki. The flyover will be constructed in such a way that the vehicles on ORR which now get stuck for minutes at the junction will have a smooth flow of traffic while traffic congestion and the waiting time at Kanakapura road side will reduce significantly. Another highlight of this flyover is that it will come under a Metro line. While the Metro piers are at a height of 13.5 metres, the proposed flyover will come at a height of 5.5 metres from the ground level. BBMP sources said that the four-laned flyover will begin from the Ilyas Nagar junction and will have a width of 17 metres. Interestingly, we have similar 'flyovers under flyovers' at Nayandahalli-Mysore Road where the ORR flyover is below the Mysore Road flyover and on Electronics City where the NICE Road flyover is below the Electronics City expressway and the proposed Electronics City Metro line. BBMP officials had earlier submitted a detailed project report (DPR) to the government for approval.

This will be part of the signal-free corridor on ORR from Mysore Road JP Nagar stretch. Currently grade separators have been built at KEB junction, Devegowda petrol bunk junction, Dalmia junction and Muttu raj junctions, Kadirenahalli and Puttenahalli.

With Sarakki flyover, extension of Metro line and other slew of projects, Kanakapura Road is turning out to be a preferred destination for land/flat buyers. Many want to construct a houses nearby Kanakapura Road which is known for its greenery. Bengalureans feel that staying near Kanakapura Road provides them an opportunity to stay in a green and stress-free environment.

The properties here also acts as a potential investment for those who want to invest in property for the future. As the outskirts of Bengaluru especially those in Kanakapura areas have lot of greenery, the property owners feel as if they are having a green luxurious life and living in midst of a green zone. There is a proposal to four-lane the road till Kanakapura and then make it a paved two lane till Karnataka border which connects Sathyamangalam and Coimbatore. By-passes have been planned at important places like Kaggalipura, Udyapura, Harohalli, Kanakapura and Sathanur etc.

— Prakash VL

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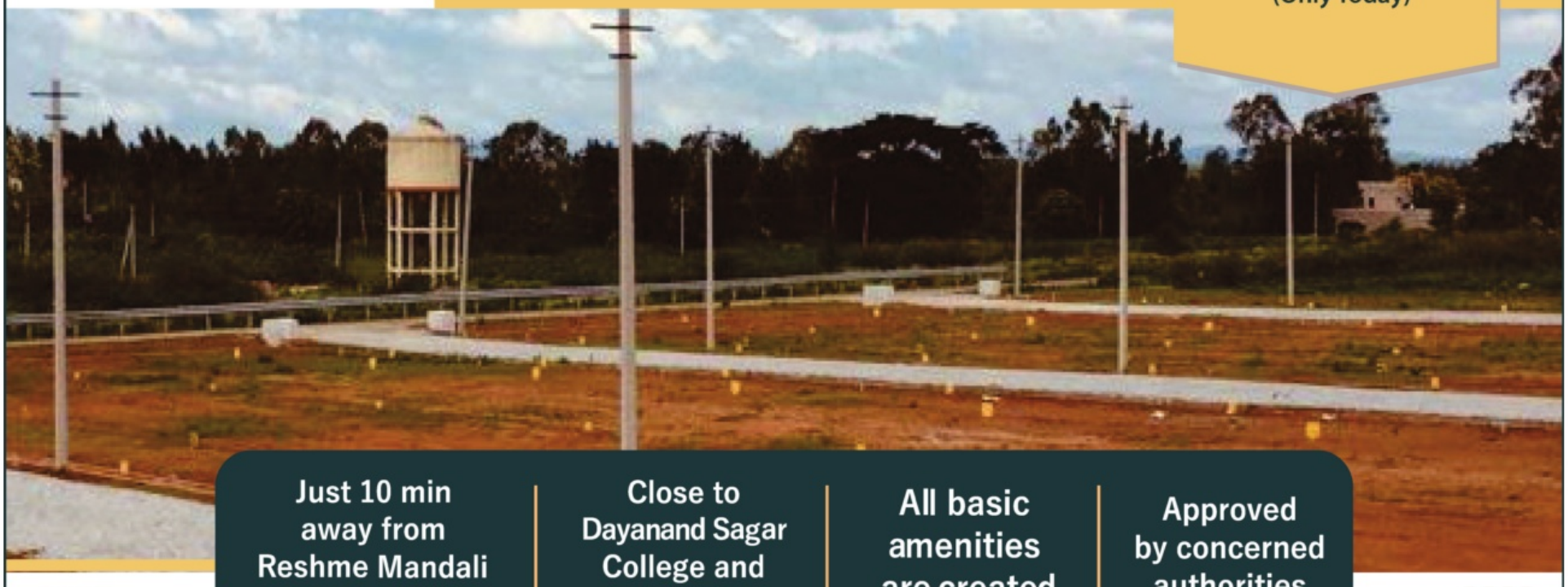

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‘Single window approval system is a must for timely delivery of homes’

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Bhaskar T Nagendrappa, president, CREDAI Bengaluru, in an interview discusses the growth prospects of the city’s realty market, and highlights why the timing now is ripe for a home purchase

As per JLL research, Bengaluru saw sales of 12,220 units in Q1 2022 (the highest among the top seven cities). What is the reason behind this growth?

Covid-19 has reinforced the need for a comfortable home with an adequate space to live, work, and relax. Besides, increased savings due to the reduced expenses towards travel, clothing, and other needs, augmented by the lowest-ever interest rates have encouraged people to buy a home. This is complemented by the supply of a variety of products catering to the different aspirations and needs of homebuyers.

Bengaluru added approximately 13,210 units in Q1 2022, a significant yearly increase of 72%. Additionally, around 65% of the new supply added was in the mid-range and premium segments. What are the factors that contributed to this trend?

A large quantum of this new supply is from the backlog of the past two years. Further, the demand trends due to macro factors, outlined earlier, supplemented by the transition to the ‘work-from-home’ culture have enthused developers to launch new projects. Also, the pandemic has played a key role in reversing the consumer preference for smaller homes. Additionally, we believe, that the IT sector has done well, even during the pandemic, fuelling the growth in the high-end price bracket.

The IT hub of the country grabbed a major chunk of office absorption in Q1 2022 with a 31 per cent share. What is driving this strong pick-up?

The pandemic has disrupted and reorganised many sectors of the economy across the world. This has opened up new avenues, all of which need innovation and technology. Hence, it is not surprising that the commercial market has grown by leaps and bounds. After all, Bengaluru is the technology, innovation, and biotech hub of the country.

Which key infra projects are expected to ease the commute time of the citizens and give a boost to real estate sector?

Faster implementation of the subsequent phases of Metro and the introduction of an effective Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project (BSRP), Peripheral Ring Road (PRR), and Satellite Town Ring Road will improve connectivity and result in a significant reduction in travel time to prominent employment hubs. We believe that the transit-related infrastructure developments will strengthen Bengaluru’s ranking as an attractive gateway for realty-focused investment flow in the city and boost the realty prospects.

What measures are being taken to encourage homebuying activity? What more needs to be done to attract buyers?

The introduction of RERA has boosted the confidence of homebuyers and has made it difficult for the fly-by-night operators to function. The relaxation of norms for the ownership of agricultural lands and the recent reduction in guideline value are all steps in the right direction. Besides, Bengaluru developers are amongst the most efficient and customer-focussed in the entire country and hence, they are constantly innovating and improvising the product profile and homebuying experience. Effective functioning of RERA will also be only possible when the envisioned single window approval system is put in place replacing the archaic, cumbersome, and lengthy approval process.

Which are the top three localities to invest in this year in Bengaluru?

The area around the KIAL, due to the development of Terminal 2, improved infrastructure; The Outer Ring Road (ORR), Whitefield, and Sarjapur Road as the growth of the IT sector is concentrated in this belt; The Bengaluru-Mysuru Corridor as it benefits from the development of the expressway.

Source – Times Property

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This beautiful photo was taken at Sadarmangala Lake during my evening walk.

The picture was clicked by reader **Naveen Katta**

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It's not a cakewalk on Millers Road pavement

Pedestrians complain they are left to jostle for space and walk on main road as autos, private vehicles are parked

| Shreyashi Mukherjee
mybangaloremirror
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

For the residents and pedestrians who use Miller's Road daily, walking on the footpath basically means jostling for space. They say the footpath is used as a parking spot for autos and other private vehicles and walkers are left to fight for what remains of it.

A resident of the area said, "These vehicles have been parked here for so long that there has been no effort to remove them. We residents have told the auto drivers so many times to not park here, but they did not pay any heed to us."

The pedestrians say that because of the footpath being blocked, they have to use the busy road. Raghav Krishnan, a pedestrian, said that it gets very risky to walk as the road is jam-packed almost always and there is a high risk of getting into an accident. "Because of this, there is unnecessary traffic as well as the vehicles have to wait for the pedestrians to cross. Just two days ago, my sister got injured as her leg was cut by the lower part of a vehicle's silencer."

The commuters say that driving or riding on that road is also very difficult.

Auto drivers pay no heed to their words say residents

> **"It is very dangerous for cars and pedestrians as people walk on the main road**
>
> – Dinny George, a commuter

Often, they have to stop because people will be walking on the main road.

Dinny George, a commuter, said, "Commuting on this road is not easy at all. I have to apply the brakes because there will be people walking. A lot of vehicles get stuck as well. It is very dangerous both for the people as well as for the people who are using vehicles. It can cause accidents any time."

Dharamraj Naik, Assistant Engineer, BBMP, said, "We will inform the senior officer and make arrangements to get the vehicles removed and clear the footpath so that people can walk without any problems."

DID YOU KNOW?

Ask any Bengalurean serious about their shopping where is a good place to shop, and Avenue Road is sure to be a common answer. A busy shopping and commercial street in Chickpet, it also connects Mysore Road and KG Road in the city. It is in close proximity to Majestic bus station and Bangalore City Railway station. Earlier, Avenue Road was known as Doddapete, and was known to be one of the largest markets in the area. Not just clothes and jewellery, but Avenue Road is known for its traditional trade in used books as well, and it's a common sight to see students throng the many stalls bargaining for books at dirt-cheap prices. Some of the iconic landmarks here are the Ranganathaswamy temple, Maramma temple, the old post office and the British-era's Rice Memorial Church.
(Wikipedia, with inputs from Economic Times)

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

9591233247

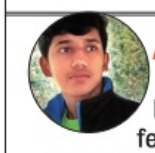
Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

TAPTHECHATTER

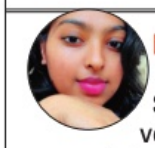
where Bengalureans speak their mind

What is a favourite tourist spot for you in Bengaluru and why?

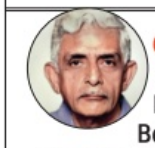
Lavanya, Homemaker
Cubbon Park is the one and only park where all age groups can visit. Elders walk here and kids play. The attraction of the park is the beauty of tabebuia rosea pink and yellow flowers.



Aryan Sheth, BM Reader
My favourite spot is Cubbon Park. It is a great place to unwind and feel close to nature, away from the noise of the city.



Rachana R, BM Reader
My favourite place is Vidhana Soudha as the architecture is very beautiful. I like visiting it in the morning as there is less of a crowd and the surroundings are very peaceful.



Gopal Shastry, BM Reader
The Indian Music Experience Museum at Brigade Millenium in Bengaluru has become a favourite tourist locale. Natural elements set up at the entrance, create rhythmic notes when touched, welcoming the visitor. Wide spread of music and dance from different regions and cultures of India can be viewed and heard as you walk through. Display of 100-plus typical instruments of India is a rare sight. It is a must-visit.

Aditya Kamble, Student
Nandi Hills is my favourite tourist spot because of its mesmerising beauty and watching the sunrise is an amazing experience. The altitude is approximately 1,450 metres so it involves some amount of trekking but the experience is worth the effort and time. It is also ideal for bird-watching.

SPEAK TO US

Which is your favourite season in Bengaluru and why?

If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com or WhatsApp us on 9591233247

Pedestrians, aim for skies

61 new skywalks, but why are the existing ones unused? Read on

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

With city's traffic returning to pre-pandemic level, pedestrians are having a tough time crossing roads in absence of skywalks. But the good news is that BBMP says soon the city will get 61 more skywalks.

BBMP Special Commissioner Rangappa said, "There will be a total of 117 skywalks in the city soon. Of these, 56 are in working condition and can be used by pedestrians. Works are on to construct 26 skywalks, a work order has been issued for 29 and the work may start soon. We have given letters of acceptance to six more skywalks. Besides skywalks, there are 20 subways where 11 subways have home guards."

Avoiding skywalk

Thousands of motorists get stuck every day near KR Puram. One of the main reasons for the jam is frequent criss-crossing by pedestrians. To prevent this, the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) constructed a skywalk though it had little effect on the ground level as pedestrians still prefer to cross the road risking their lives.

KAUSHIK JN

Many skywalks are in a neglected condition in the city

Heights of trouble

According to experts, the skywalks are installed at a height of 20 feet or more. As pedestrians are not eager enough to climb the steps to reach that height, they risk their lives by darting across the roads. With this dangerous trend continuing, more than 1,000 pedestrians have lost lives in the last few years. Even hundreds of motorists are injured. One of the big reasons why skywalks aren't used is because of unscientific design.

Despite a demand to install escalators/elevators on the skywalks, hardly anyone uses it. Even a few skywalks where there are elevators (near State Bank of Mysore Circle and Orion Mall), the elevators are off most of the time leaving the pedestrians to take a walk. The skywalks are dangerous to walk in the dark hours as there is hardly any lighting or security.

Bengaluru also has its share of subways especially in the old Bengaluru area. There are two key subways in the Majestic area; one that connects Kempegowda bus stand to the city railway station and the other one connecting Kempegowda bus stand to Subedar Chatram road. These are the two popular sub-ways used by thousands of people. Yet, it is not a safe walk here. Take the example of the subway that connects to the railway station. You may not be able to find a subway dirtier than this. It has been a long time since the subway was cleaned and most look like dark dungeons. With half of the subway occupied by vendors and the other half by sex workers, people find it tough to move from one end to the other. As the police have entirely barricaded the top road (so that no one can cross from Kempegowda bus stand to the City railway station), pedestrians have no option but to cross it by covering their noses.

The security at subways and skywalks is always a concern. There are a few subways on the Nrupatunga Road, Subedar Chatram Road, Malleswaram, Rajajinagar and Hosur Road which are locked forever. As there is no security, pedestrians are scared to use it. The subway on the Subedar Chatram Road was even vandalised once. This created a fear factor.

According to traffic experts, merely building a skywalk and forcing pedestrians to use will not work. They say we need to design the next generation of skywalks and lure pedestrians to use it. "We have international models where the skywalks are fitted with escalators/elevators. After these services are provided, the road needs to be barricaded in such a fashion that pedestrians cannot cross the road. So, with advanced technology, the skywalks will be a boon not just for pedestrians but also for motorists who can have a hassle-free drive. Security is essential at these skywalks. A guard needs to be deployed so that it is not encroached. Proper lighting is very much necessary for the skywalks to be used at night," said a traffic expert.

"We have global models where skywalks are fitted with escalators or elevators. After these services are in place, the road needs to be barricaded in such a fashion that pedestrians cannot run across it

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, DEEPA GOPINATHAN KARINGATTIL, W/o ANOOP THOTTAPAYIL, R/o 1923 Prestige Kew Gardens, Yemlur Main Road, Behind HAL Airport, Yemlur, Marathahalli Colony, Bengaluru - 560037 have changed my name as DEEPA GOPINATHAN, vide affidavit dated 23/06/2022 sworn before notary Rajanna S. M, Bengaluru.

I, SRI VENKATA PADMA PRIYA GATTU W/o Sathish Kurma R/at Site No.3, 6th Cross, Naidu Layout Shanthipura Near Cisf Building Electronic City Bangalore South - 560100 have changed my name to Janet Francis vide affidavit dated: 23/6/2022 Before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed Bangalore.

I Prasant Naidu S/o. Narayanaswami R/a No. 32, Ground floor, 6th street, Bank Avenue Extension, Babusapalya, Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore-560043. I have changed my name to PRASHANTH N NAIDU Vide affidavit dt: 15/06/2022. Sworn before Notary : Uday Kumar K.

MALCUM JUDE S/o JAMES R/o No. 918, A26 BDA, Austin Town Bangaluru Karnataka - 560047; have changed my name to MALCOLM JUDE for all purposes.

I, RIMPA DEY, W/o PRITHWISH DEY, R/o Flat No.108, Elite Abhyudaya 1, 55/3, Doddathougur, Electronic City Phase-1, Bengaluru - 560100, have changed my name as RIMPA DEY SIKDAR, vide affidavit dated 24/06/2022 sworn before notary Rajanna S.M, Bengaluru.

I, Narayana Swamy Rakesh Bijjawara, Residing at #566, 7th A Main Road, A Sector Yelahanka New Town, Bangalore-560064, have changed my minor daughter's name from HITA RAKESH to SREEHITAA vide affidavit dated: 23.06.2022 before notary H.K. Gopalagowda, Bengaluru.

I, VIJETHA REDDY, Residing at # 22, 1st Floor, Muneshwara Temple Street, 1st Main Road, Hebbal Kempapura, Bangalore-560024, have changed my minor daughter's name from CHARVI ARUN YADAV to CHAARVI ARUN YADAV vide affidavit dated: 23.06.2022 before notary H.K. Gopalagowda, Bengaluru.

I, R Balaji S/o Ramkumar R/o #No-G-02 , White Petals ,Appt ,BDS Nagar ,K Narayanapura, N Nagenahalli B'lore-77 have changed my minor son's name from Maara Emmanuel Uverstina Balaji DOB :23/12 /2021 to Maara Emmanuel vide affidavit dtd 22/06/2022 before Notary Kanikha Raja , B'lore

I, M S SANTOSH S/o Saravanan M N residing at No.155, 5th Cross, 28th Main, H.S.R. Layout, Bangalore-560102 have changed my name to M S SANTOSH KRISHNA vide affidavit dated 23.06.2022 sworn before notary Veena Hadagali, Bangalore-98.

I, Mahaveer Chand S/O Bhawarlal, R/At No. 510 Premvilla, 5th Block, 65th Cross, Rajajinagar, Bangalore 560010 have changed my Name to B. Mahaveer Chand vide Affidavit dated 23.06.2022 Sworn Before Notary K.C. Shashikala.

I, Ankur Jha R/o A2-907 Iskcon Gokulam Apartments Kanakapura Road Bengaluru 560062 have changed my minor son's name from Krishav Jha to Krishv Ankur Jha

I, PRATAP SHADAKSHARI, Residing at No.133, 1st Main, 7th Cross, K.R. Extension, Tiptur Town, Tumkur-572201, today in Bengaluru, have changed my name to PRATHAP SHADAKSHARI vide affidavit dated: 24.6.2022 before Notary B.S. PADMA PRASAD, Bengaluru.

I, Shivani Rithvik Hegde D/o Kuthethur Shambhu Gowtham R/o NO 375 -A, 4th Main, Sadashiva Nagar, Bengaluru 560080,have Changed My Name To Shivani Gowtham Shetty for all purposes.

I Bhuwan Singh S/O, Ram Singh R/o #13 2nd Main 2nd Cross, Shine Bakery, Ejipura, Viveknagar Post Bangalore-560047 have changed my name to Bhuvan Singh R

I Divya V Jain D/O, G Vimal Chand Jain R/o 25/6 14th Cross Pipeline Road Vijaynagar Bangalore-40 have changed my name to Divya Jain

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Cruise along hi-tech expressway to Mysuru

New technology, cultural centre are highlights of highway

Bengaluru-Mysuru highway is all set get new technology. The 118-km-long highway will get "AMR sensor with ATS" technology.

This will include the installation of cameras every two kilometres. This is done in an effort to monitor highways effectively. The cameras will also allow the collection of evidence in case of accidents

This technology also helps in changing the routes in emergencies.

There are entry and exit points in Bidadi, Ramanagar, Channapatna, Maddur, Mandya, and Srirangapatna to facilitate the commuters of these areas. They can pay the toll according to their usage, and the use of service roads is free.

The expressway includes 96 bus bays and bus shelters, and 18 footbridges. There are special arrangements for welcoming VVIPs, ministers, and Chief ministers. U-turns are available for every 5 km. But these are used only in emergencies. Ambulance, towing cranes, and patrolling facilities can be availed through the 1033 toll-free number.

There will be a Cafeteria on 12 hectares of land in Kannamangala near Channapatna. A helipad is also available.

NHAI Project Director Sridhar said, "Safety is the priority in Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway. The road is designed to drive a minimum of 100 km/hr speed.

"Safety is the priority on the expressway. The road is designed to for minimum of 100 km/hr speed – NHAI project director Sridhar

The Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway not only connects the two cities but will provide a cultural tour of the region

The cafeteria is also planned in a different way, which is built in a huge area between the roads."

Cultural Brand Centre

Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway not only connects the two cities but will provide a cultural tour of the region. There will be a "Brand Centre" which displays products of this region with GI tags like Channapatna toys and other products.

This centre is under development near Ramanagara on 30 acres of land. This Brand Centre will be completed along with the highway work.

Mysuru MP Pratap Simha said, "This expressway is for not only the residents and employees of Bengaluru and Mysuru cities to commute but for the travellers of other states too. By introducing them to the locally manufactured products with GI tag, we can create a global market for the products." This Brand Centre will also exhibit the history, personalities, crops, dresses, and culture of the district. The purpose is that those who travel on this route will get a glimpse of the culture and tradition of the region. **— Prakash VL**

Much-needed aid for 127 PHCs to deal with pandemic

With the pandemic putting tremendous pressure on the healthcare infrastructure in Karnataka, the Rotary Club of Bangalore came forward and reached out to over 127 primary health centres (PHC) in a 20-month period. They provided various equipment to give first-level healthcare to the below poverty line (BPL) families at a cost of Rs 1.97 crore.

The Rotary Club of Bangalore spent over Rs 1.97 crore, by covering 2921 villages with over 36 lakh beneficiaries. R Girish, President of the Rotary Club of Bangalore said, "The need for equipment can be gauged from the fact that several PHCs used to perform deliveries when the electricity supply failed, mal functioning fridges to store Covid-19 vaccines, could not launder stained bed sheets quickly and found difficult to maintain electronic data for the purpose of survey & correspondence with other government departments".

Over 30 different types of equipment have been donated to the PHCs which provide first-level healthcare to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families. The various types of equipment given are ECG machines, birthing beds, cots, mattresses, washing machines, laptops, examination tables, crash carts, refrigerators, UPS, autoclaves, nebulizers, glucometers, OT focus lamps, oxygen concentrators, cylinders, suction apparatus, BP apparatus, and pulse oximeters and Oxygen cylinders.

The cost of support for each PHC is typically in the range of Rs 1.25-1.50 lakh. **— BMB**

Traders, vendors on plastic ban

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"A wholesaler told me that there is an upcoming ban on plastic bags and plates. So I have stocked cloth bags. I have been selling plastic glasses for years; I am not aware of a ban on plastic glasses and spoons," said Madhusudhan, who owns a grocery store.

Nagraj, another shop owner, said he stocks earbuds on plastic sticks as no one is supplying wooden ones. Some roadside vendors and shop owners using plastic carry bags, glasses, straws and plates told BM that the additional expense for the alternatives will burn a hole in their pockets.

A tender coconut vendor in Yelahanka said that a ban on plastic straws will impact her business. "We pay around Rs 20 for a pack of 100 straws. We cannot afford the costlier paper straws," said Kavitha.

Agrees Raju is a roadside flower vendor in the same area. "The only alternative available for polythene bags are the costly cloth bags; Rs 2 a piece, whereas the polythene bags are priced at 20 per piece. On average, I use around 50 polythene bags daily. For cloth bags, I will have to spend Rs 3,000 per month. The customers, if charged for the bags, will move to other shops. I will incur a loss," Raju told BM.

A handful of shopkeepers who are aware of the ban on multiple items said though they would like to switch to the alternatives, they are left with a huge stock of SUPs. They are worried about a ban on wrapping film sheets.

"We do not mind switching to selling paper plates and cutleries. However, if they ban plastic packaging and wrapping film, how are we going to store the paper plates and other items? Ours is a roadside shop and if not packed in plastic film, we will not be able to sell many items as they will catch dust over time," said a worried shopkeeper.

The CPCB has organised multiple digital interventions to increase the efficiency of the ban. To enable citizen participation, a SUP Public Grievance App was launched. The app has geo-tagging features with the facility to track complaints.

Lack of alternative

According to experts, the banned SUPs can be phased out of the market only if there are economical and sustainable alternatives available. "We hardly have 5% of our plastic consumption covered by the currently available alternative. However, these alternatives have cost implications. Setting up more companies and getting the alternative product approved is also not feasible looking at the fast-approaching deadline. Getting approval from regulatory bodies after appropriate testing to manufacture the alternatives takes at least six months. It will be difficult for the authorities to enforce the ban," said Vijay Kumar, president, Karnataka State Polymer Association.

Bannerghatta's 14-yr-old big cat no more

A leopardess (Panthera pardus) named Sanjana aged about 14 years died at Bannerghatta zoo on Friday, Sanjana was rescued from Mysuru in June 2009 and was rehabilitated at Bannerghatta. According to officials, she took her last breath early morning today. The post-mortem was conducted by IAH&VB.

The probable cause of death could be senility. Usually, the life span of leopards in the wild is about 10 years but Leopard Sanjana died at the age of 14. A few days back, a Gaur had also died of age-related illness. **— BMB**

PVR CINEMAS {Phoenix Market City, 8:30, 9:30, 11:45, 12:45, 4:00, 6:30, 7:15, 9:45, 10:30 p.m. | Forum Mall, 8:50, 9:30, 12:05, 12:45, 2:50, 4:00, 6:45, 7:15, 10:00, 10:30 p.m. | Orion Mall, 9:00, 9:30, 12:15, 12:45, 3:30, 4:00, 6:45, 7:15, 10:00, 10:20, 10:30 p.m. | Orion Uptown Mall, 9:00, 12:15, 3:30, 6:45, 10:00 p.m. | MSR Regalia Mall, 9:30, 12:45, 4:00, 7:15, 10:30 p.m. | Spirit Mall, 9:20, 12:30, 3:45, 7:15, 10:30 p.m. | Arena Mall, 9:00, 12:15, 3:30, 6:45, 10:00 p.m. | VR Mall, 8:45, 9:15, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 3:15, 3:45, 6:15, 6:30, 7:00, 9:45, 10:15 p.m. | Vaishnavi Saphire Mall, 9:30, 10:10, 12:45, 4:00, 7:15, 10:30 p.m. | Vega City Mall, 9:00, 9:30, 12:15, 12:45, 3:30, 4:00, 6:45, 7:15, 10:00, 10:30 p.m. | The Cinema @ GT Mall, Magadi Road, 9:30, 12:45, 4:00, 7:15, 10:30 p.m. | The Aura, Whitefield, 9:15, 12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 10:15 p.m.} | INOX {Garuda Mall, 9:40, 10:50, 4:00, 7:10, 10:20 p.m., IN DOLBY ATMOS:- 12:00, 3:05, 6:10, 9:15 p.m. | Swagath Mall, 9:45, 12:50, 4:00, 7:10, 10:20 p.m. | Central Mall, JP Nagar, 10:20 a.m., IN DOLBY ATMOS:- 9:30, 12:35, 3:40, 6:50, 10:00 p.m. | Lido, 9:40, 10:55, 12:50, 4:00, 7:10, 10:20 p.m. | Forum Value Mall, 12:10, 9:20 p.m., IN DOLBY ATMOS:- 9:40, 10:30, 12:50, 4:00, 7:10, 10:20 p.m. | Mantri Mall, 12:10, 9:40 p.m., IN DOLBY ATMOS:- 9:40, 12:50, 4:00, 7:10, 10:20 p.m. | Brookefield Mall, 9:55, 1:00, 4:05, 7:10, 10:20 p.m. | SBR Horizon, Seegehalli, 9:05, 12:05, 9:20 p.m., IN DOLBY ATMOS:- 9:45, 12:50, 4:00, 7:10, 10:20 p.m. | Garuda, Yelahanka, 9:40, 12:50, 4:00, 7:10, 10:20 p.m. | Galleria Mall, RMZ Yelahanka, IN DOLBY ATMOS:- 9:40, 12:50, 4:00, 7:10, 10:20 p.m.} | CINEPOLIS {Royal Meenakshi Mall, 10:10, 12:30, 3:40, 6:50, 8:00, 10:00 p.m. | ETA Mall, Binny Mill, 9:40, 12:50, 4:00, 7:10, 9:00, 10:20 p.m. | East Orion Mall, 9:30, 12:40, 3:50, 7:00, 10:10 p.m. | Shantiniketan, 9:20, 10:30, 12:30, 3:40, 4:00, 6:50, 9:30, 10:00 p.m. | SJR Spectrum Mall, 9:15, 12:25, 3:35, 6:45, 9:55 p.m. | Sigma Mall, 9:00, 12:10, 6:50, 10:00 p.m.} | GOPALAN {Innovation Mall, 10:15, 5:00, 9:45 p.m. | Arch Mall, 11:15 a.m., 9:30 p.m. | Grand Mall, 10:00, 4:45, 9:30 p.m. | Legacy Mall, 10:00, 12:45, 6:15, 9:45 p.m. | Signature Mall, 10:30 a.m., 7:15 p.m.} | INNOVATIVE MULTIPLEX {Marathahalli, 10:15, 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15 p.m.} | ROCKLINE CINEMA {Peenya, 11:00, 4:10, 10:00 p.m.} | KINO CINEMAS {Kadugodi, 9:30, 6:55, 9:00 p.m.} | SWAGATH SHANKARNAG {4:15, 10:15 p.m.} | ABHINAY THEATRE {K G Road, 10:30, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45 p.m.} | ANAND THEATRE {Tanny Road, 10:30, 4:30, 7:30 p.m.} | SANTOSH THEATRE {RPC Layout, 10:30, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30 p.m.} | VINAYAKA THEATRE {D J Halli, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30 p.m.} | BALAJI THEATRE {Chikkakallasandra, 7:00, 9:45 p.m.} | HMT {Jalhalli, 4:15, 10:00 p.m.} | CINEPOLIS {City Centre Mall, Mangalore, 9:40, 12:50, 4:00, 7:10, 10:20 p.m.} | PVR CINEMAS {Fiza Mall, Mangalore, 9:15, 12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 10:15 p.m. | Forum Mall, Mysore, 9:30, 12:45, 4:00, 7:15, 10:30 p.m. | Garuda Mall, Mysore, 8:50, 12:00, 3:50, 6:45, 10:00 p.m.} | INOX {Central, Manipal, 9:50, 12:40, 7:20, 10:30 p.m. | Satyam Mall, Mysore, 10:00, 1:05, 7:20, 10:30 p.m. | S Mall, Tumkur, 10:00, 1:30, 4:00, 7:15, 10:20 p.m.} | BHARATH CINEMAS {Mangalore, 10:30, 1:30, 4:15, 7:15, 10:00 p.m. | Manipal, 10:15, 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15 p.m. | Shivamoga, 10:30, 7:30, 10:15 p.m. | Kundapura, 10:30, 7:15, 10:00 p.m.} | DRC CINEMAS {Mysore, 4:00, 7:00, 9:55 p.m.} | STRELING {Myosre, 10:30, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00 p.m.} | MOVIETIME {Davangere, 10:15, 5:15, 10:10 p.m.} | VASANTHA {Davangere, 10:30, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30 p.m.} | BALA {Hospete, 10:30, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30 p.m.} | RAGAVENDRA {Bellary, 10:30, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30 p.m.}.

farnazfever

'Monitor situation closely, don't panic'

Expert suggests keeping eye on severity of infection

#New Delhi

After India reported the highest number of covid-19 cases in the last 100 days, a top expert said that the surge in covid-19 infections isn't a concern but it is necessary to closely monitor the severity of the virus.

According to Dr Sanjay Rai, Senior Epidemiologist at AIIMS, the surge in covid-19 cases isn't a concern but there is a needs to closely monitor severity, deaths, and hospitalization.

"In the current scenario, what matters is hospitalization or severity, the number of cases should not be of any concern," he added.

Further explaining the covid-19 virus mutations, he said, "SARS CoV2 is RNA virus and in RNA virus mutations are happening not only in India throughout the world, but more than thousands of mutations have also already occurred. Although the variant of concerns is only five. We must monitor if the virus is increasing deaths and if the hospitalization is increasing, then definitely it's a matter of concern," Dr Rai added.

India has reported a significant spike in the cases of coronavirus infection as it reported 17,336 new cases of covid-19 in the last 24 hours as compared to the 13,313 total cases recorded on Thursday, the Union Health Ministry informed.

With the latest surge in infection, India's active caseload stood at 88,284 at the rate of 0.20 per cent, which was 83,990 at the rate of 01.19 per cent a day before. "In the last two years, whatever evidence we have, we can say that it's unlikely that the rise in cases will increase the number of hospitalisations," Dr Rai said.

A healthcare worker collects a swab sample of a man who is busy on the phone for a covid-19 test in Jammu

Government panel recommends emergency approval for Covovax for 7-11-year olds

An expert panel of India's central drug authority on Friday recommended granting emergency use authorisation to Serum Institute's Covovax for children aged 7 to 11 years, official sources said. The recommendation has been sent to Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) for final approval. The application for emergency use authorisation was submitted by Prakash Kumar Singh, director (government and regulatory affairs) at Serum Institute of India (SII) on March 16. "The Subject Expert Committee (SEC) on covid-19 of the CDSCO deliberated on the EUA application of SII and recommended granting emergency use authorisation for Covovax for children aged 7 to 11 years," an official source said. The expert panel in its last meeting in April had sought more data from the Pune-based firm over the application. – PTI

Pawar meets Uddhav amid Maha crisis

#Mumbai

Amid the continuing political crisis in Maharashtra due to revolt in the Shiv Sena, NCP chief Sharad Pawar, Deputy CM Ajit Pawar arrived at Matoshree, the residence of the Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray in Mumbai. The leaders were accompanied by state minister Jayant Patil and NCP leader Praful Patel. The leaders are expected to discuss ways to prevent fall of MVA government, which also includes the Congress.

Ajit Pawar said earlier in the day that the NCP stands with the Chief Minister and will try to "keep the government stable". The crisis continued to plague Shiv Sena with rebel leader Eknath Shinde claiming support of 38 party MLAs.

Thackeray convened a meeting of district chiefs of the party and said he left Varsha Bungalow, the official residence of the Chief Minister, but not the "will to fight".

"I have said it earlier also that I don't have anything to do with power. The people who used to say that they would rather die than leave Shiv Sena have fled today," he said. "The rebel MLAs want to break the party. I had never thought in dreams that I would become the chief minister. I have left Varsha Bungalow but not the will to fight," he added. Targetting Shinde, Thackeray said that he did everything for the rebel leader and yet a lot of allegations are levelled against him.

Thackeray had vacated the official residence of the CM on Wednesday night and moved to his family residence 'Matoshree' along with his family. "I did everything for Eknath Shinde. I gave him the department which I held. His own son is an MP and comments are being made regarding my son. A lot of allegations are levelled against me," he said. "If they have courage, they should go among people without taking the name of Balasaheb and Shiv Sena," he added. – ANI

NCP chief Sharad Pawar met Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray on Friday

Supreme Court: Gujarat riots not pre-planned

#New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Friday said there is "no tittle of material" to prove that 2002 Gujarat riots were pre-planned and the inaction of some state officials can't be the basis to term it as a state-sponsored crime against the minority community. A bench, headed by Justice AM Khanwilkar and comprising Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and C.T. Ravikumar, said: "Suffice it to observe that there is no tittle of material, much less tangible material to support the plea of the appellant that the Godhra incident unfolded on February 27, 2002 and the events which followed, was a pre-planned event owing to the criminal conspiracy hatched at the highest level in the state."

It noted that inaction or failure of some officials of one section of the state administration cannot be the basis to infer a pre-planned criminal conspiracy by the authorities or to term it as a state sponsored crime (violence) against the minority community. "For it to be called so... the degree of participation in the planning of commission of an offence of this magnitude must come to the fore in some way..." the top court said.

Upholding the SIT's clean chit to then Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi and 63 others in the 2002 riots, the bench said there must be credible evidence regarding state sponsored breakdown of law-and-order situation, and not spontaneous or isolated instances. – IANS

India's forex reserves fell $11 billion in last 3 weeks

#Mumbai

India's foreign exchange reserves fell by $5.87 billion in the week ending June 17 as foreign portfolio investors continued withdrawing their investments from local equities amid global risk-off sentiment following growing concerns over global slowdown.

This is the third straight week of fall in forex reserves after a temporary reversal. In the last three weeks, reserves dwindled by $10.785 billion to $590.588 billion, Reserve Bank of India's latest data showed.

Economists anticipate that India's forex reserves, which provides a cushion against any external risks, may fall further to about $565 billion by the end of FY23 as the Asian economy would use its capital account to finance current account deficits which is projected to widen to over 3% of GDP in FY23.

"Capital flows will be important to finance the deficit. However, FPIs have remained net sellers in the domestic market for the past 8-months, which will pull overall capital account surplus lower," said Aditi Gupta, an economist with Bank of Baroda (BoB).

In 2022 so far up to June 22, FPI outflows from India have totaled $28.5 billion, in line with other emerging markets trends.

– By Atmadip Ray, ET

US top court strikes down constitutional right to abortion

#Washington

The US Supreme Court on Friday ended the right to abortion in a seismic ruling that shreds half a century of constitutional protections on one of America's most divisive and bitterly fought issues.

The conservative-dominated court overturned the landmark 1973 "Roe v. Wade" decision that enshrined a woman's right to an abortion, saying that individual states can now permit or restrict the procedure themselves.

"The Constitution does not confer a right to abortion," the court said. "The authority to regulate abortion is returned to the people and their elected representatives." Hundreds of people -- some shedding tears of joy and others weeping with grief -- gathered outside the fenced-off Supreme Court, where security was tightened ahead of the ruling. "It's hard to imagine living in a country that does not respect women as human beings and their right to control their bodies," said Jennifer Lockwood-Shabat, 49, a mother of two daughters who was choking back tears.

WORLD

Anti-abortion activists react to the ruling in front of the US Supreme Court on Friday

But Gwen Charles, a 21-year-old opponent of abortion, was jubilant.

"This is the day that we have been waiting for," she told AFP. "We get to usher in a new culture of life in the United States." The ruling will likely set into motion a cavalcade of new laws in almost half of the 50 US states that will restrict or ban and criminalize abortions, forcing women to travel distances to states that still permit the procedure.– AFP

HEALTH TIP: Body acne can be prevented with steps such as showering twice a day in summer, changing sweaty clothes after the gym, and using the right products

Green tea counters inflammation and oxidation, making it great at clearing dark spots on the skin, especially those caused by UV rays

Ageing gracefully

Researchers track 77 species for up to 60 years to try to reveal the secrets of long life

Ever wondered about the secret to a long life? Perhaps understanding the lifespans of other animals with backbones (or "vertebrates") might help us unlock this mystery.

You've probably heard turtles live a long (and slow) life. At 190 years, Jonathan the Seychelles giant tortoise might be the oldest land animal alive. But why do some animals live longer than others?

Research published today by myself and colleagues in the journal Science investigates the various factors that may affect longevity (lifespan) and ageing in reptiles and amphibians.

We used long-term data from 77 different species of reptiles and amphibians – all cold-blooded animals. Our work is a collaboration between more than 100 scientists with up to 60 years of data on animals that were caught, marked, released and re-caught.

These data were then compared to existing information on warm-blooded animals, and several different ideas about ageing emerged.

What factors might be important?

Cold-blooded or warm-blooded

One popular line of thought we investigated is the idea that cold-blooded animals such as frogs, salamanders and reptiles live longer because they age more slowly.

These animals have to rely on external temperatures to help regulate their body temperature. As a result they have slower "metabolisms" (the rate at which they convert what they eat and drink into energy).

Animals that are small and warm-blooded, such as mice, age quickly since they have faster metabolisms – and turtles age slowly since they have slower metabolisms. By this logic, cold-blooded animals should have lower metabolisms than similar-sized warm-blooded ones.

However, we found cold-blooded animals don't age more slowly than similar-sized warm-blooded ones. In fact, the variation in ageing in the reptiles and amphibians we looked at was much greater than previously predicted. So the reasons vertebrates age are more complex than this idea sets out.

Environmental temperature

Another related theory is that environmental temperature itself could be a driver for longevity. For instance, animals in colder areas might be processing food more slowly and have periods of inactivity, such as with hibernation – leading to an overall increase in lifespan.

Under this scenario, both cold and warm-blooded animals in colder areas would live longer than animals in warmer areas.

We found this was true for reptiles as a group, but not for amphibians. Importantly, this finding has implications for the effects of global warming, which might lead to reptiles ageing faster in permanently warmer environments.

Protection

One suggestion is that animals with certain types of protections, such as protruding spines, armour, venom or shells, also don't age as fast and therefore live longer.

A lot of energy is put into producing these protections, which can allow animals to live longer by making them less vulnerable to predation. However, could it be the very fact of having these protections allows animals to age more slowly?

Our work found this to be true. It seems having such protections does lead to animals living longer. This is especially true for turtles, which have hard shell protection and incredibly long lifespans.

We'll need to conduct more research to figure out why just having protections is linked to a longer life.

Reproduction

Finally, it has been posited that perhaps longevity is linked to how late into life an animal reproduces.

If they can keep reproducing later into life, then natural selection would drive this ability, generation to generation, allowing these animals to live longer than those that reproduce early and can't continue to do so.

Indeed, we found animals that start producing offspring at a later age do seem to live longer lives. Sleepy lizards (or shinglebacks) are a great example. They don't reproduce until they're about five years old, and live until they're close to 50!

The challenge in understanding ageing

To understand ageing, we need a lot of data on the same animals. That's simply because if we want to know how long a species lives, we have to keep catching the same individuals over and over, across large spans of time.

This is "longitudinal" research. Luckily, it's exactly what some scientists have committed themselves to. It's also what my team is doing with sleepy lizards, Tiliqua rugosa. These lizards have been studied continuously at Bundey Bore station in the Mid North of South Australia since 1982.

Here, more than 13,000 lizards have been caught over 40 years of study. Some have been caught up to 60 times! But given the 45-year longevity of these lizards, we've been studying them for a shorter time than some of them live. By keeping the survey work going we might find they live even longer.

Some animals' chance of dying isn't linked to age

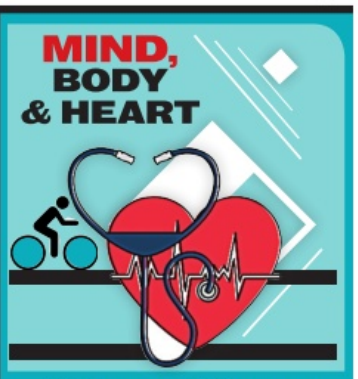
Another interesting part of this research was finding, for a range of animals, that their chance of dying is just as small when they're quite old compared to when they're young. This "negligible ageing" is found in at least one species across each of frogs, salamanders, lizards, crocodiles and, of course, in tortoises like Jonathon.

We're not quite sure why this is. The next challenge is to find out – perhaps by analysing species genomes. Knowing some animals have negligible ageing means we can target these species for future investigations.

Understanding what drives long life in other animals might lead to different biomedical targets to study humans too. We might not live to Jonathan the tortoise's age, but we could theoretically use this knowledge to develop therapies that help stop some of the ageing process in us.

For now, healthy eating and exercising remain surer ways to a longer life.

(By Mike Gardner, Flinders University, The Conversation)



All problems solved

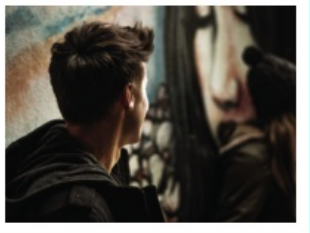
Dear Coleen

My boyfriend and I have been arguing recently because he thinks it's weird I have so many male friends and he's convinced they all want to get me into bed. I'm sure this isn't true at all! I've always got on better with guys and I've never been the kind of woman to have a big girl gang. I grew up with three brothers, so maybe I just relate to them better.
Anyway, my boyfriend's attitude is getting on my nerves. I don't comment on his friendships - he has a couple of female buddies and I don't feel threatened..

COLEEN SAYS

It sounds as if this is about his insecurities rather than your behaviour. I've always had lots of male friends, too, and never had romantic thoughts about any of them (although, obviously, I can't speak for the fellas. Joke!).
I think you'd be able to tell quite easily if one of them fancied you, and if you thought it might get complicated, you can back off or make it clear you're only interested in friendship.
You have to talk to your boyfriend about trust and help him to see that trying to control your friendships is not healthy for your relationship.
It sounds like there's a bit of a double standard going on here – he can be friends with women, but it's a problem if you have male friends.
I reckon he does feel threatened, but that's nothing to do with you and everything to do with how he feels about himself.

—Coleen Nolan, Daily Mirror



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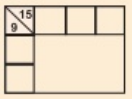
@BangaloreMirror

SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

$-9^2-(9^2)^0+9x0+9^0x9 = ?$

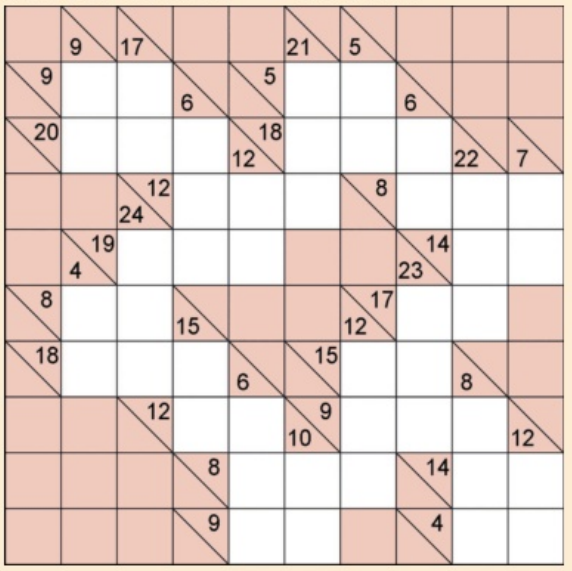
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

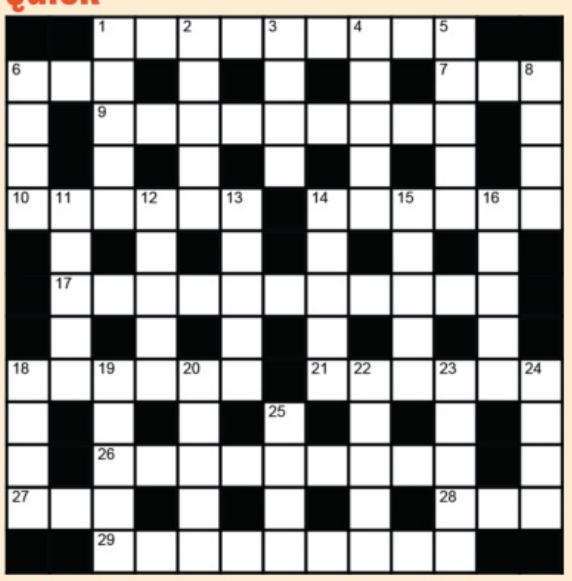


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Sorry (9)
6 Top card? (3)
7 It may be found in a nest? (3)
9 A small restaurant? (9)
10 Bazaar (6)
14 Drives or pushes forward (6)
17 High-ranking diplomats (11)
18 Talk rapidly and unintelligibly (6)
21 Tore or scratched? (6)
26 Popular dessert in Karnataka and the rest of the country as well (6,3)
27 High tennis shot (3)
28 Tokyo's former name (3)
29 Overt not covert–not hidden? (2,3,4)

DOWN

1 Happen again (5)
2 Blunder (5)
3 English painter (4)
4 Roman market-place (5)
5 Rental contract (5)
6 Old time classic movie___ Ara (4)
8 Breaks in continuity (4)
11 Ethiopian capital Addis ___ (5)
12 Skewered Arabic meal (5)
13 To one's ____ : pleasing or suitable? (5)
14 SF writer Asimov (5)
15 Ms Bhatt of Bollywood (5)
16 Cotton fabric (5)
18 Young woman (4)
19 Walt Disney's lovable cartoon deer (5)
20 Hungarian composer (5)
22 Receive enthusiastically? (3,2)
23 Become conscious (5)
24 Extinct bird (4)
25 Unrestricted (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: A EQUALS T

ALC AVZC PGTACVG KX ALC EKVJM RT ALC YRTRNJC, QKA ALC RQYRTRNJC.

Linemaro

I would buy you a drink but would be jealous of the glass

Mindchow

Angels can fly because they take themselves lightly

Joke of the day

Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead-to-know basis

Loop

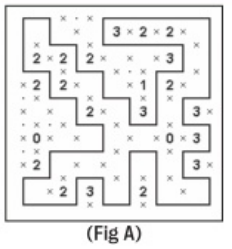
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

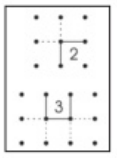
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

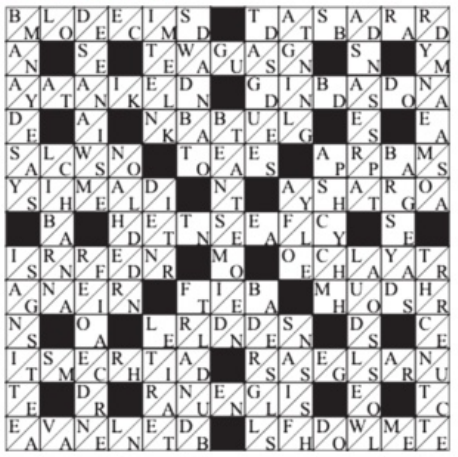


(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed

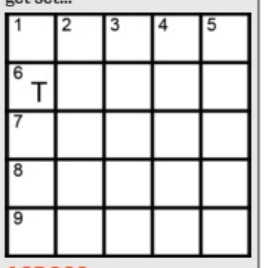
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Met so; 6 RY rat; 7 I rice; 8 Ref an; 9 Of LSD

DOWN

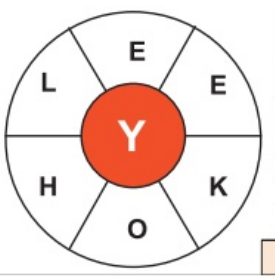
1 Tiffs; 2 Marco; 3 Oiler; 4 Drent; 5 Sayer

Mensapuzzle

What comes next in this series?

1 7 8 15 23 38 61 –

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

03 Average; 04 Good; 05 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	9	1				6	8	
		4	5		1	3		
			6	4	9			
3	4						2	1
			1		4			
1	8						5	6
			2	3	5			
		3	9		7	2		
	6	5				7	9	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

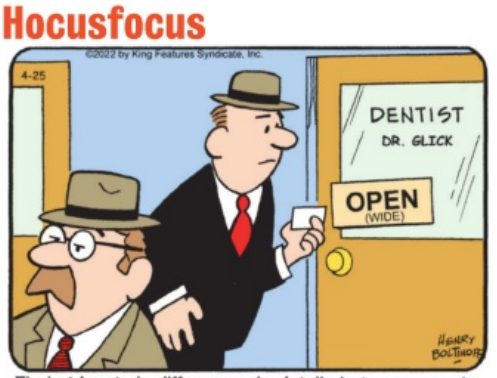
Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 31
7 7 8 9

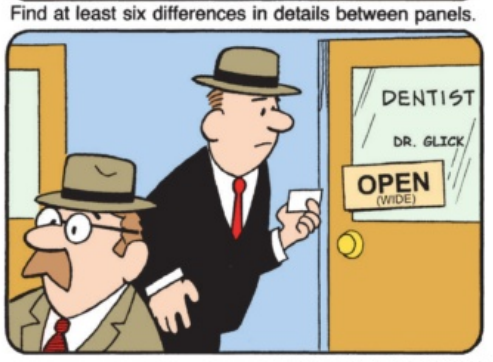
Medium = 20
2 2 3 6

Hard = 39
3 9 9 7

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



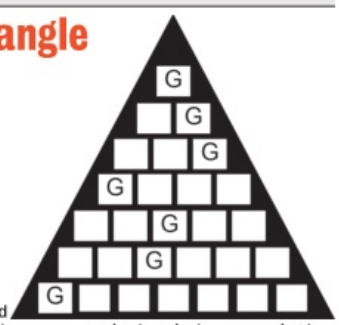
Differences: 1. Eyes are different. 2. Hat is larger. 3. Label is different. 4. Door is not as wide. 5. Name on door is lower. 6. Tie is thinner.

Riddler

Five siblings are they, their colour is true;
One belongs to one, four are shared by two.
Connected together, some by locks; Many meet their fate upon the rocks. Arrange their initials, and you should Find things that are found in a neighbourhood. What has just been described?

Alpha triangle

1 1000 colloquially
2 Silver symbol
3 Give a hard time
4 Parents' mom?
5 Wrath, fury
6 Queen
7 Equipping



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

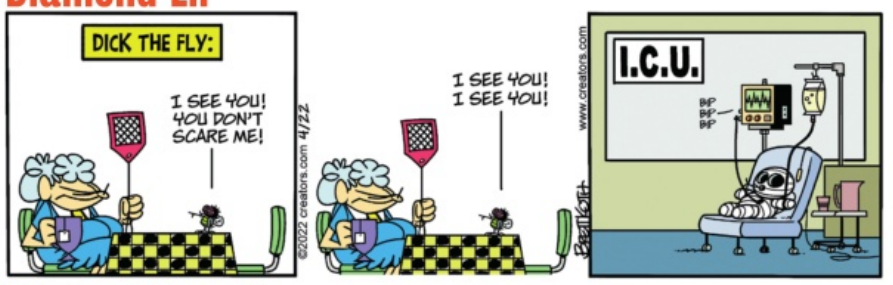
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

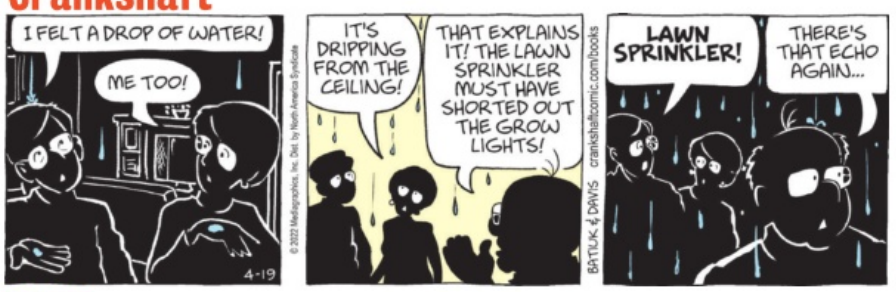
Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil



Hart of the city

Crankshaft



Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today you are blessed by the moon. New Partnership may bring you benefits. Your energy levels are likely to be high. Your hard work and enthusiasm may pay off in terms of financial gains. Self respect may protect you from negative people around you.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
The moon is not on your side today and might make you upset. Sleeplessness will give you anxiety and affect your daily routine. It is advised to avoid risky adventure tours and rash driving. You may spend money on worthless items, which might create negative energy around you. Over spending can affect your savings.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
The moon favours you today and small investments may convert to big profits. Your work efficiency may be increased and you are likely to find success with low effort. You may hear good news in terms of legal matters. You will also have the higher ground over opponents.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Overworking could tire you out today. It can make you lazy and careless, and you are advised to keep patience. If you are planning an adventure tour, you are advised to postpone it for a while. Your past investments may convert to dead stock. Students are advised to work hard. Keep an eye out for back aches and nervous system, liver, or and skin-related issues.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
With situations under control, you may feel better today. Your network can help you on the work front. This is a good time to increase domestic harmony and improve your Love life. If you are feeling creative, you may bring some artefacts for your family. You can also plan watching movies or going out with friends and family.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you may feel sleepless. Your goals may seem scattered, which could affect your work efficiency. You could plan to visit some religious place. In the late evening, you will find out your mistakes and possibly make a good plan for the coming days. You are advised to take care of your parent's health.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Your creativity will be high today and you may plan to renovate the house. You can buy some items for your house or office that could elevate your social status. There is likely to be harmony with the spouse. Disputes with friends, co-workers, and partners may settle down. You may hear good news in terms of legal matters.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today you will be glad. You will be able to maintain balance between your earnings and expenditures, which will boost your finances. Your network will help you to implement your plans. Your siblings and juniors will be more helpful today. You can plan to visit your elders or a religious place.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
You are likely to meet some old friends or be busy with a social get-together. You may feel excited today. New innovations may be there in terms of business. You are also likely to have some unexpected material gains. Children may bring good news in terms of studies. Lovebirds may enjoy quality moments.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Until late afternoon, you could be feeling dull, which may seep into your way of working. However, with the help of elders, you are likely to get back your speed. Pay added attention to the health of your children. You will have the higher ground over your rivals and opponents. Investors should be careful while making difficult decisions. Stomach issues may make you upset.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today you should be happy at work. You are likely to make some important decisions by the end of the day, which will help you in the near future. You can plan for a short trip. Your juniors are likely to be cooperative. Expect good news in terms of the success of siblings. You are likely to be in a winning position in legal matters. Students may be more focused to achieve their targets.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today your communication skills may help you on the professional front. You are likely to be more polite with everyone around you, which may help you speed up your projects. Lovebirds can exchange their views with each other, which may create a strong foundation in their relationship.

KIDZONE

Saina Goenka, 9 Years, New Academy School

Tanay, 8 Years, Vidyashilp School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

RIDDLER The Great Lakes: Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, Ontario. There are five lakes being blue (as in true blue). Lake Michigan belongs to the United States, the other lakes are shared by the United States and Canada. The lakes are part of a chain, with locks between some of them. Many shipwrecks occur by grounding on rocks in shallow water. The initials spell "homes", which are found in neighborhoods.

QUOTE UNCODE The true mystery of true world is the invisible, not the invisible.

FAST FIVE

S	M	O	T	E
T	A	R	R	Y
I	C	I	E	R
F	R	E	N	A
F	O	L	D	S

STRIKE OUT

M	O	D	E	M	S		T	A	B	A	R	D		
A		E		E	A	G	A	N		S		Y		
Y	A	N	K	E	D		G	I	B	S	O	N		
D		I		K	A	B	U	L		E		A		
A	L	S	O		T	A	S		P	R	A	M		
T		R	U	N	G	S		O		C		C		
I	S	C	H	I	A		R	A	G	L	A	N		
N		A		E	R	N	E	S		D		E		
G	A	I	N		F	E	B		H	U	S	H		
I	N	F	E	R		M	E	C	L	A	T			
A		D	E	N	S	E	L	Y		E				
Y	I	E	L	D		T	A	S	T	R	O			
A	L	S	O		T	A	S		P	R	A	M		
D		I		K	A	B	U	L		E		A		
Y	A	N	K	E	D		G	I	B	S	O	N		
A		E		E	A	G	A	N		S		Y		
M	O	D	E	M	S		T	A	B	A	R	D		

QUICK

		I	N	T	H	E	O	P	E	N				
L	O	B		Z		E		U		E	D	O		
R		M	Y	S	O	R	E	P	A	K		D		
		I		A		I		F		A		O		
G	A	B	B	L	E		C	L	A	W	E	D		
		B		T		A		J		L				
	A	M	B	A	S	S	A	D	O	R	S			
		B		E		A		S		O		I		
M	A	R	K	E	T		I	M	P	E	L	S		
		A		U		F		Y		U		S		P
L		C	A	F	E	T	E	R	I	A		A		
		A	C	E		A		T		O		E	G	G
		R	E	G	R	E	T	F	U	L				

MENSA PUZZLE
99. After the first two terms each subsequent term is the sum of the previous terms.

BULL'S EYE
holy, KEYHOLE, yoke, yokel, yolk

SOLVE IN 1M
81-1+0+9 = -73

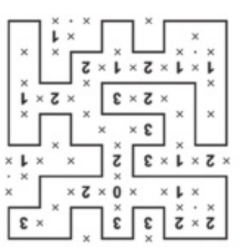
SUDOKU

5	9	1	3	7	2	6	8	4
6	2	4	5	8	1	3	7	9
7	3	8	6	4	9	5	1	2
4	7	9	2	3	5	1	6	8
1	8	2	7	9	3	4	5	6
9	5	6	1	2	4	8	3	7
3	4	7	8	5	6	9	2	1
8	1	3	9	6	7	2	4	5
2	6	5	4	1	8	7	9	3

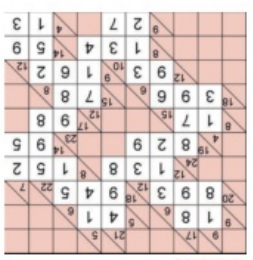
ALPHA TRIANGLE
G, AG, RAG, GRAN, ANGER, REGINA, GEARING.

GO FIGURE
Easy
8 + 9 + 7 + 7 = 31
Medium
3 + 6 x 2 + 2 = 20
Hard
3 x 7 + 9 + 9 = 39

LOOP



KAKURO



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